



Emmanuel News



May 2023



*For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

*Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.*

-Psalm 139:13-14

When I was growing up, VeggieTales was one of my favorite shows to watch. In fact, one of my first dates with Anna was watching The Ultimate Silly Song Countdown movie. We didn't do a lot of church stuff growing up, so I appreciated hearing the Bible stories and I loved the ways that they presented them. At the end of every episode, Bob the Tomato would always say the same line before the credits started to roll. He would say, "God made you special, and He loves you very much."

This was an incredibly important word of Good News for me to hear when I was a child, but I think it is just as important for us to hear today. I remember a few years ago when I was talking with one of my classmates about the candidacy paperwork that we were both working on. They expressed how the hardest part of the paperwork was filling out the "Strengths" section. I responded by letting them know I struggled to write that section as well. It wasn't that we didn't know that we had gifts, it just felt like bragging and it made both of us uncomfortable. We both expressed how at one point or another in our lives, the virtue of humility seemed to blot out the gift of individuality, and our ability to claim the things that make us special was lost.

We have a God who created you uniquely, who gave you specific gifts, specific talents, specific passions, dreams, and goals. Our God knows every hair on your head, every freckle on your arm, every curve of your fingerprints, and loves everything about you exactly as you are. When this creator God made you with all of these intricacies and all of this uniqueness, our God looks at you and says that this creation is "very good." God made you special, and God loves you very much.

These gifts of God are meant to be celebrated and appreciated, and I want to invite us all to take some time to look for the things that make us special. I want to invite you to claim and own your gifts as an act of worship, praising God for how good God is to have made you special. God gave us these talents so that we can share God's love with the people around us in a way that no one else can. When we are able to claim these gifts, and use them in concert with the gifts of the people around us, we are able to live out all of who God called us to be together. We cannot be all that we can be as a community without you and your gifts and passions. You matter to us, to the community around us, and to our world. God made you special, and God loves you very much.

“Community Garden”

It's that time of year again!! We are starting our planning of the community garden. This is a wonderful way that we can fulfill our mission of loving service to the community and those in need.

Please contact Liz White if you would like to help!
406-690-8317



COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

Spring is here and summer is fast approaching. I've been spending my time packing away the warm winter clothes and digging out the flip flops, shorts and tank tops. At the same time, I've been going through all of my stuff to see what I can donate to the annual church garage sale. I'm kind of a pack rat at heart, as I tend to keep everything. You never know when you might need this or that, but in the long run, all of the good junk just seems to collect dust and never get used again.

The month of May is here and I get to practice my limited Spanish, if only for a day. Happy Cinco de Mayo everybody! Muchas gracias mi amigos. On the 14th of May, we celebrate Mother's Day, so Happy Mother's Day to all of the Moms out there. It wasn't until I became a parent myself, that I truly appreciated the fantastic job that my Mom did in raising my brothers, sisters and me. Being a Mom is no 8 to 5 job and I know it takes a lot of hard work. Thanks for everything Mom!

Then on the 29th, we celebrate Memorial Day, a day to remember those who served our country and paid

the ultimate price. I always try to attend the service that morning, behind the church, in the land of the great granite stones. We have had some very inspirational speakers in the past and I always leave with a new perspective on life. Happy Memorial Day to everyone and

I hope you enjoy the three day weekend, which typically kicks off the Summer

. Time to dust off the old barbeque grill and cook something up, while enjoying the company of family and friends.

Well there is much to do and so little time. Got to run for now. Hope to see you in Church.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T. C. Mouse



4/12/23

Shepherd Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

Present: President Jill Hoffman, Greg Plath, Ricker Olson, Carol Kramer, Dawn Petty, Sharon Wolske, Wendy Siemsen, Lindsey Reynolds, Buckley Reynolds, and Abbey Emmons

Called to order at 7:00pm

Agenda presented by Jill, LPA Dawn opened the meeting in prayer.

Standing reports:

March Secretary Report - approved. (Carol/ Sharon)

March Treasure Report - Lindsey will send out the invoice copy for Cotters to review. Kyle Newell also spent some of the budgeted money for the new technology. Money will be transferred as agreed at the annual meeting from the memorial fund. (Sharon/Carol)

Youth Committee - Confirmation Sunday May 7th. Escape room planned for the confirmands and a kids day still needs to be scheduled for the Sunday School age children. Youth fund will pay for both excursions. ***Joyful Worship**

Pastoral Report - pastor was not here; he was attending a conference.

Old Business:

HVAC update: scheduled for April 20th to start.

Technology updates: Most of the items have been purchased and we are hoping to have a plan to install it soon. Kyle, Ricker,

Klint, and Abbey would like to help with the set up and installation. ***Loving Service**

Church Cross update: Ricker needs to trench the grape vines and would like to trench the cross location in the lawn at the same time. Ideally this will happen by the end of April.

The chair lift is not working. Sharon will call Juros to look at it.

Water / plumbing update: no updates.

Church Shower is a go! April 23rd at 10:30. Abbey, Laura, Liz, and Jill are the team working to bring this together. This will be a good opportunity to get to know each other and spend some quality time with our church family. ***Caring Relationship**

New Business:

Pastor contract extension - current contract is set to expire June 1st. Copies of the original contract were distributed. Conversation. Change the pastoral committee to meet once a quarter. Pastor Josh serves Hardin on Monday/Tuesday and our church on Wednesday/Thursday. We are working on a 50/50 split with Hardin. Conversation about pay. Montana Synod has guidelines for this. Jill asked for guidance from the council for the new contract payment. A motion was made to extend the contract. (Sharon/Dawn)

Up to a 20-month contract extension. Monetary changes will be presented at the annual meeting and work to be consistent with Hardin. (Lindsey/Carol)
Sub-council to work with Hardin for scheduling and pastor evaluations and feedback. Abbey, Wendy, Lindsey, and Jill will be on that committee.

Insurance policy change - existing policy HAS to change. Streeter Bros is our insurance agent and Guide One is the insurance carrier. Insured values of the property will increase slightly.

Counters: April 16 Carol. April 23 Wendy. April 30 Ricker. May 7 Sharon. May 14 Dawn.

Next council will be May 10 at 7pm.

Mission Cornerstone: Our council tries to always incorporate our Mission Strategy. Today we

celebrate those missions marked in red in the notes. At this meeting we celebrated ***Joyful Worship**, ***Loving Service**, and ***Caring Relationships**. Psalm 71:23 My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to You; And my soul, which You redeemed.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer and meeting adjourned at 6:45

Respectfully submitted,

Abbey Emmons, Secretary



Youth Planning meeting

Wednesday May 2nd at 7 pm.



Call Jill for the Zoom meeting invite if interested.



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

What a great turnout for the "church shower" and all the supplies that were contributed to the church! A hearty "thank you" to all of you ladies! It was a fun-filled event, with delicious food and entertaining games! Thanks also to the ladies who prepared everything.

It also is getting closer to the season to get the church garden in....and again, we will be depending on the volunteers to take care of that. The garden will need to be cleaned out, and tilled, although it is too early to put in plants. We could get seeds in over the next weeks, and towards the end of May, we could put in plants. So keep that in mind, and as you are shopping for supplies for your own gardens, please pick up some for the church (community) garden. We will place sign-up sheets in the church for watering and weeding the area, too. We certainly need your help.

We usually have a garage sale in early summer, and will have to set a date for that. I am sure we all have lots of items that we can donate to a sale.

Mid-June is time to begin the summer BBQ's, and our whole community looks forward to it. We will need to get workers to sign up to do the preparations, the barbecuing and the clean-up.

As you know, we are always supplied with food dishes for the meal, by our generous friends.

It is wonderful to eat and enjoy their contributions.

Sure looks like it will be a "fun" summer!

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates



Prayers of the Church

Please send a group prayer request from our Shepherd Lutherans to our Dagmar Lutherans. I was born and raised in NE Montana and grew up at Nathaniel Lutheran church in Dagmar MT.

When I moved to Shepherd and found Emanuel Lutheran it felt like "home". My home childhood church was destroyed in a fire earlier this week. A complete and total loss. The community is devastated. I attached a picture of Nathaniel in Dagmar MT a day before the fire. With God's majestic Northern Lights. Please pray for our fellow Lutherans who I lovingly called the Dagmar Danes.
Thanks Joy DePanfilis

*An update on Rose Fritz's granddaughter, Rachel Weeks. Rachel has been diagnosed with a neurological disorder and is starting treatment. Please continue to keep Rachel in your prayers. The family is so grateful for all of your prayers.

*Please pray for Bill Reitler, Holly's husband, who is in the hospital with numerous health issues. I will keep you informed as I hear more from the family. Also, keep the family in your prayers. Thank you.

*Luanne Super's nephew Steve, Darlene's son, has 11 tumors on his brain. Some on his lungs which they are checking today. He has an upcoming full body scan. He is the father to 19 children. Please pray for Steve and his family in this very difficult time.



Community Living

St Johns United: 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.

Birthdays May

01 Barbara Cooper	15 Lindsey Reynolds
01 Dawn Petty	11 Derek Reitler
03 Cole Hoffman	17 Rob Emmons
04 Meagan Malchow	19 Ricker Olson
05 Agnes Beddes	20 Roseanne Plath
08 Brittany McKenney	23 Stacy Emerick
09 Peggy McSweyn	29 Gene Lundhagen

Anniversary May

05 Chuck & LuAnne Super



Christikon Clips

May 2023

Information for our Congregations



There is still room to register for camp this summer! Space remains in most youth sessions and families/adult sessions, including the **Work Weekend, May 26-29. Families register online.**

Special guest speakers become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. During Continuing Education Retreat (July 25-28) we feature **Dr. Eric Meyer.** Watch for topic details on our website for both Continuing Ed and Mountain Weekend. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Full details can be found on our website www.christikon.org.

We covet your prayers for Christikon's this summer, for our summer and fulltime staff, and for all who join in the Christikon life.



CHRISTIKON • 1108 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102

406 656-1969 • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

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