



# Emmanuel News

November  
2023



*"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." - Psalm 107:1*

As the golden hues of autumn envelop our surroundings and the crisp air reminds us of the changing seasons, we find ourselves on the cusp of another Thanksgiving. This time of year, with its vibrant colors and cozy gatherings, beckons us to pause and reflect on the myriad blessings that grace our lives. It's a season that reminds us of the beauty of gratitude and the transformative power it holds.

In Psalm 107, we are reminded of the enduring love of the Lord, a love that remains steadfast through every season of our lives. This unwavering love has seen us through challenges and triumphs, moments of doubt, and moments of overwhelming joy. And for this love, this constant presence in our lives, we give thanks.

Thanksgiving is more than just a day on the calendar; it's a state of the heart. It's more than just uttering words of thanks; it's a profound recognition of the countless ways in which we are blessed, both big and small. It's the warmth we feel when a loved one embraces us, the joy that bubbles up when we hear a child's laughter, the peace that descends upon us as we watch a sunset paint the sky. These moments, fleeting as they may be, are the threads that weave the tapestry of our lives, reminding us of God's infinite grace.

Thanksgiving, while a special occasion, is also a reminder that gratitude should not be confined to a single day. Instead, it should be a lens through which we view the world, a perspective that shapes our interactions and decisions. When we approach life with a thankful heart, we begin to see the divine in the everyday, recognizing each experience as a gift from above.

In a world that often emphasizes what we lack, gratitude shifts our focus to abundance. It reminds us that even in the midst of challenges, there are blessings to be found. It's the comforting hand of a friend during times of sorrow, the unexpected kindness of a stranger, the resilience that emerges from within when faced with adversity. Gratitude teaches us that while life may not always be perfect, there is always something to be thankful for.

As we gather with loved ones this Thanksgiving, let's make it a point to truly listen, to share stories, to celebrate the memories that bind us. Let's create an atmosphere where gratitude is not just spoken but felt, where every moment is cherished and every blessing acknowledged.

And as the festivities come to a close, let's carry this spirit of thanksgiving with us. Let's commit to nurturing a heart full of gratitude, not just during this season but throughout the year. For in doing so, we not only enrich our own lives but also bring joy and hope to those around us.



Pastor Wendell Brown marries Wilson- Martin

*In a private ceremony in an Idaho Lutheran church, Wendell Brown married Kristianne Wilson and Jack Martin. Pastor Brown served Emmanuel in the mid - 1960's and Kristianne was in his first confirmation class. Wendell served as a host for a Reformation- Martin Luther tour of Germany in 2022 that Kristianne and Jack enjoyed.*

*Pastor Brown lives in Paso Robles, CA and has recently 'come out of retirement' to serve a congregation in King City, CA on a part time basis. He remains active, traveling the country visiting friends and family, enjoying this grand-children's activities and bird - hunting with his dog. His daughter Erin, her husband and 3 grown children live in Salinas, CA and son Nathan lives with him at the family home.*



## TREASURERS REPORT

submitted by Lindsey Reynolds

Although we had positive income in September, our Year to date is still in the negative. We have had some expenses this year that were voted on in the annual meeting, 1 being the heating/cooling which totaled \$13298.00 and the other being the camera system which has come to a balance thus far of \$4492.50. If we remove those two items it brings our annual Year to Date difference down to **negative \$10795.49**. Please continue to remember your church in your charitable giving. Thank you for your generosity as we move forward in 2023.

	Expenses	Income	Difference
September	\$12,234.09	\$13,721.27	\$1,507.42
YTD	\$96,558.39	\$67,972.40	(\$28,585.99)



# COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

It's that time again. Time to fall back, reminds me of some old trust building exercise where you blindly fall back in the arms of a team member who is supposed to be there to catch you. I tried this with Mrs. T.C. one time. She went first and I expertly caught her in my arms saving her from harm. Then it was my turn. I was quite apprehensive about the whole thing, but I gave it a shot. She assured me that she was ready to catch me. I started to fall back and the phone rings. Right before I slammed to the floor, I remember hearing Mrs. T. C. say "Hello"! Oh well, so much for trust building. Anyway, we turn back the clocks on the 5<sup>th</sup>, so be sure to adjust your clock prior to going to bed on Saturday night.

The annual Harvest Dinner at the church is fast approaching and will be on Sunday, November 5. I can hardly wait for the dinner of roast beef and all the fixings. The vast array of pies for dessert is my favorite part. I also look forward to the auction of items in the church that happens in tandem with the Harvest Dinner. There is always a lot of great things to check out and bid on. Of



course, there are a few pies that are auctioned off too. I hope to see you there.

On the 11<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate Veterans Day, so be sure to remember to fly Old Glory at your home. We live in the best country in the world, thanks to the service and sacrifice of those that have served or are serving in the military. Thank you for your service to all of the Veterans out there.

Finally, on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, we celebrate Thanksgiving. Another great feasting opportunity. Turkey, stuffing and all of the fixings. It is always great to get everyone in the family together around a table full of food. An extra day or two away from work is nice too. I hope you enjoy the holiday with your friends and family, spending some quality time together. We really do have a lot to be thankful for. Happy Thanksgiving to you

all.

Well, enough for now. Lots to do on the fall honey do list before the snow starts piling up. See you in Church.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.  
T.C. Mouse

## Youth

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

### Sunday November 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

Sunday School, 10:00 - 10:45

### Wednesday, November 1st

Waymakers, 2:30 - 5:00  
Confirmation, 7:30 - 8:30

### Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

Waymakers, 2:30 - 5:00  
Confirmation, 7:30 - 8:30

### Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

Waymakers, 2:30 - 5:00  
Confirmation, 7:30 - 8:30

### Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>

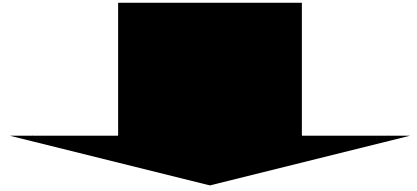
*NO WAYMAKERS*  
Confirmation, 7:30 - 8:30

### Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>

Waymakers, 2:30 - 5:00  
Confirmation, 7:30 - 8:30



## EMMANUEL SPOTLIGHT



Samantha Mae Reynolds

Who is your favorite teacher?

Mrs. Grover

Which horse is your favorite?

Poofy

What is your favorite color?

Pink/Teal/Purple

Who is your best friend?

Daisy and JoJo

What is your favorite School Subject?

Science

What is your favorite sport?

Basketball

What is your favorite part of church?

Making crafts

What is your favorite food?

Pizza

When is your Birthday?

March 13th

What is your favorite Candy?

Chocolate/Hersheys

Some of the older **Waymaker** kids will be conducting 'interviews' to a person in our church monthly. We will be calling it the Emmanuel Spotlight and highlighting this person in our newsletter!



# 10/11/23 Shepherd Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

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

Called to order at 7:00 PM. Agenda presented by Jill. Pastor Josh led and opened with devotion from 1<sup>st</sup> King. How can we reflect the diverse needs of our congregation and community? How can we better serve as leaders? The council answered: We can better serve by asking good questions, not in a leading manner but to create good dialog. Invite and continue to invite. Do research so that we can be the best at whatever we have been asked to do.

*How can you help with the diverse needs of our congregation and community?*

## Standing reports:

Secretary Report – No amendments. (Motion to accept. Carol/Wendy)

Treasurer Report – The report showed higher spending and higher deposits, but the overall spending was the money that was already agreed on by council or congregation for the big-ticket items (money in matched money out). As of now we are sitting at about a \$10,000 deficit compared to this time in 2022. Abbey told the group that a \$1000 donation was made, earmarked for the VBS program for 2024. Exciting and thank you for your generosity! No amendments. (Motion to accept. Carol/Abbey)

Pastoral Report – Awesome month! Pastor is very excited about the Waymakers Program. Numbers have almost doubled! He is working on backfilling the parental leave time with Lay Pastors and different scheduling. New member classes and first communion classes will be scheduled after he returns. Bible study & confirmation are his concerns. Josh is going to reach out to a few people that may be willing to fill in.

## Old business:

Technology update: Still working on it. Kyle, Jim, and Jill are working hard to get the final kinks worked out. The shelf was installed last month, the recording device is working, just need to get everything streamlined and solve the audio issue.

Newsletter: entries need to be in by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month. We are working on getting a monthly calendar created so if you know birthdates of any of our congregation members, please email Lindsey Reynolds or Abbey Emmons so we can get the calendar updated.

Basement leak: Wall will be put back in place before Harvest Dinner by Rob & Abbey Emmons. Carpet cleaning: Rob & Abbey will hire and pay for a carpet cleaner to come in and do the basement carpets. (Update as of 10/22 the carpets will be cleaned 11/13 and

we could use a couple of volunteers to meet after church on the 12th to move all the tables and chairs to the kitchen and then again on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> to put everything back in place.)

Harvest Dinner: November 5<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will start at 11:30 and the auction at 12:00. Dawn is right in the middle of the planning stages. Roasts have been purchased (Melissa Walsh will cook all of them), volunteer lists have been emailed for the food needs, auction and bazaar items are needed, and the Wayfinders children have made some items that will be for sale. **\*Joyful Worship**

Melissa Walsh and her company Basil & Bloom have scheduled her free community lunch for 10/15. Any free-will offering will be re-donated to the Food Pantry. **\*Caring relationships**

Youth announcements: Waymakers is going strong. **\*Loving Service** Sunday School is also going strong. December 17 is the Christmas program during church service. Lindsey, Laura, Wendy, and Abbey will attempt to meet and plan the details soon.

## New Business:

Baby shower planned for Pastor and his wife Anna and will be November 18<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 here at the church. All ladies are invited. Ask Liz White for details if you did not get an invitation.

Food baskets for Thanksgiving: The church and the Food Pantry will work in tandem with the Lions Club and Agnes Beddes. If you know of a family in need, please reach out to anyone on the Food Pantry Committee.

**Next meeting:** 11/8/23 at 7:00 PM

**Counters:** 10/15 Jill Hoffman 10/22 Ricker Olson 10/29 Dawn Petty 11/5 Wendy Siemsen 11/12 Dawn & Tari

**Closed with the Lord's Prayer** and meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM



# LOVING SERVICE

## Christikon Clips

November 2023

Information for our Congregations

Our summer calendar is set and on our website (christikon.org). If you have questions about the 2024 season or would like to register, give us a call or do so online. It was a powerful summer of ministry this year, and we look forward to welcoming you to camp in the new year. The 2023 Annual Meeting will be on Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm. We'll tell stories from the summer and share plans for the 2024 season, construction, and much more. We will be meeting in person at Big Timber Lutheran Church. We continue to hold you in prayer as together we navigate these uncertain times.

We also trust in, and give thanks for, a God who promises to never let us go, no matter what life throws our way. May God bless you and yours as we move through fall and towards the holiday season and the new year. Thank you as always for all the ways you support Christikon. 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 24<sup>th</sup> Street West • Billings, MT 59102 406 656-1969 • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org



# EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

## Emmanuel Church Women's Group - November 2023

As you all know, the Harvest Dinner, Bazaar and Auction will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup>, with the meal starting at 11:30 AM to 2:00PM, and the Auction at 12:30. The women on the work group lists have all been notified of the items they must bring ready been bringing their donations to on the donation lists. We need to have the food at the window, and also those room, refilling coffee cups, water, serving the next group of diners. There will be Auction items are coming in, and the jars, bottles, etc. which will be sold, the Pineview Quilters to be raffled afghans that are for sale, also. You will choose from. Beautiful fall wreaths will and goodies. Stop and shop! We hope On another topic, it looks like time to planters outside of church, especially next month, we will put fall leaves in them, until after Thanksgiving, and then change them again to a Christmas theme for December. If any of you have some suggestions, let me know. Thank you all. Dawn Petty, ELCW President



A Special "Thank You" to Melissa Walsh, of Basil and Blooms, who provided the delicious "free" lunch at the church, for all the community to partake of. We enjoyed visiting with all of your helpers, who were so friendly. Many thanks ... what a treat that was!

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](http://elcshepherd.org) – [elcshepherd@gmail.com](mailto:elcshepherd@gmail.com)



**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING