



# Emmanuel News

October  
2023



*11 He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.*

*- 1 Kings 19:11-12*

In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, it's easy to miss the gentle whispers of the divine, the subtle nudges that guide us on our spiritual journey. It's like the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 19:11-12, where God wasn't in the powerful wind, the earthquake, or the fire, but in a gentle whisper, a still small voice. It's a beautiful reminder that God often speaks to us not through the loud and extraordinary but through the quiet and ordinary moments of our lives.

Every day, we are surrounded by these divine whispers, these subtle moments where God is reaching out to us. It could be a smile from a stranger, a kind word from a friend, or the beauty of a sunset. These are the moments where God is whispering to our hearts, inviting us to recognize His presence in our lives. It's easy to look for God in the miraculous and extraordinary, but perhaps it's in the simple, everyday moments that we truly encounter the divine. It's about tuning our hearts to hear God's gentle whispers amidst the noise of the world.

So, how do we cultivate this attentiveness, this ability to hear God in the whispers? It starts with creating moments of silence and reflection in our lives. In a world filled with noise and distractions, it's crucial to carve out time to just be, to listen, and to reflect. It's in these moments of silence that we can hear the whispers of God more clearly. It's about being present in the moment, being aware of our surroundings, and being open to the divine presence in our lives. It's not about doing more but about being more – being more present, more attentive, and more open to the divine whispers in our lives.

Cultivating attentiveness is like tending to a garden. It requires patience, care, and a willingness to weed out the distractions that prevent us from hearing God's whispers. It's about nurturing our spiritual senses to recognize the divine in the ordinary. It's a journey of learning to see with the eyes of the heart, to hear with the ears of the soul, and to respond with a spirit of love and compassion. It's about being attuned to the divine music that is playing in the background of our lives, the symphony of love that is inviting us to dance.

And when we hear these divine whispers, how do we respond? It's about living out our faith in tangible ways, about being a living "Yes" to God's promises. It's about responding to the divine whispers with love, compassion, and action. It's about being the hands and feet of Christ in the world, about being a beacon of light in the darkness. It's not just about hearing the whispers but about acting on them, about allowing them to transform our lives and the lives of those around us.

Responsive actions are the fruits of attentive faith. It's about allowing the divine whispers to shape our thoughts, our words, and our deeds. It's about being co-creators with God in bringing about the kingdom of heaven on earth. It's about being a channel of God's love, peace, and joy to the world. It's about walking the talk, about living out our faith in everyday moments. It's about being a living testament to God's reliable promises, a reflection of His unconditional love.

In this journey of attentive faith, let's embrace the divine whispers in our lives. Let's cultivate a heart that listens, a spirit that discerns, and a life that responds to the gentle nudges of the divine. Let's be the whisper of God in the world, the gentle breeze that carries His love to every corner of the earth. And in doing so, let's remember that it's not the loud and extraordinary moments that define our faith journey, but the quiet and ordinary ones, the gentle whispers of the divine that guide us home.

## Monthly Book Club

Our group is expanding and really is an enjoyable gathering plus reading some great books..

We currently are reading *At Home In Mitford* by Jan Karon...that meeting is scheduled for October 2 at 6:00np.m. We were meeting at the feedlot but they are closing on Mondays so tentatively scheduled for Cowboys at 6:00 pm.

The next book is *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant's.

Anyone is welcome to join..

## EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

### EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

We have only about a month to go to our annual Harvest Dinner, Bazaar, and Auction event scheduled for Sunday, November 5th. We will be serving our famous Roast Beef dinner, from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

The Bazaar tables and displays will be available throughout that time, and the live auction will begin at 12:30 PM. Remember, you will have time to come up with some craft items, homemade jams and jellies, holiday decorations for houses, baked goods and needle work, etc. for the bazaar and auction. We already have a beautiful quilt, made by the Pineview Quilters, to be on display and raffled off that day, too.

We always have some creative people who come up with fantastic ideas for these displays, and some of you folks have contributed various items for the auction, such as power tools, appliances and equipment. This event is looked forward to by many in our surrounding area, and there will be posters advertising it several weeks ahead of time.

You will be contacted ahead of time with the "work" schedule for that weekend, as we rely on your help to make the event a success. If you want to volunteer ahead of time for something, I would be delighted to accommodate you. Perhaps you would like to wait on tables, or work in the kitchen, or assist in setting everything up ahead of time, be the cashier, or greet people at the door, etc. You will see the posters on display, sign-up sheets, and lists of helpers needed.

May God bless each and every one of you.  
Dawn Petty (President of the ELCW) 373-6673



# COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

October is here, spooky! My mind is preoccupied with thoughts of what I should dress up as for Halloween this year. I'm kind of leaning toward a toad costume. Partly because I'm the perfect size to correctly represent a toad, but mostly because Mrs. T.C. keeps referring to me as a bad toad. I know it seems weird to me too, but often she will say "You're a bad toad T.C.". I also wanted to dress up as a Musketeer or Mouseketeer, but I'm short two people. The whole idea is easier to pull off if you have three Mouseketeers, but me, myself and I still only come across as one in the eyes of the masses. I really don't want to answer the proverbial question all night long, about where the other two Mouseketeers are! What will you be dressing up as this year? The options are endless, especially if you make your own costume and employ some creative ingenuity. Anyways, I hope you have fun with the kids as you celebrate this spooky day at the end of the month. Be sure to have plenty of sweet treats on hand for the local trick or treaters. I myself like Snicker bars, just saying.



his discovery of the Americas was more of an accident than intentional. All ahead full.....land ho....all stop....reverse sails....brace for impact....drop anchor....sounds of wood ship meeting rocky shore....We are here people!

Finally, toward the end of the month, I get to help Mrs. T.C. celebrate her birthday. Another year older, but just as beautiful as the day we met. She does not like for me to tell her age, as she has been saying the she is 29 now for years and years, but most people who know our oldest child is going to be 31, really do not buy into that number. Let's just say it's more like 8 squared, minus 2 squared. Ha! Try and put that on the old birthday cake! Happy Birthday Pooky!

Well, that's all for now. See you out and about for Halloween. Keep an eye out for me, as I feel my toad costume may force me into a real life game of Frogger for the night.

We also celebrate Columbus Day on the 9<sup>th</sup> of this month. Yes a day for bankers and government workers to take the day off, but for the rest of us working stiffs, it is just another manic Monday. Land ho, Christopher....all stop... drop anchor...everyone ashore who's going ashore. I often wonder how Christopher managed to stop the ship, aside from running ashore. Modern boats or ships use reverse engine thrust as a break, but that wouldn't work too well when your vessel is powered by the wind and sails. Perhaps

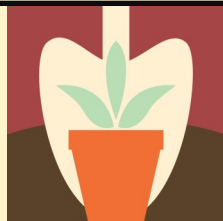
See you in Church.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T. C. Mouse

## When do we 'fall back' in 2021?

The first Sunday in November is when daylight saving time ends in most areas of the U.S., so in 2023 we "fall back" one hour and return to standard time on Sunday, November 5, 2023



"Charlie, we'd prefer you bring the grapes to our harvest festival."

9/13/23

## Shepherd Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

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

Called to order at 7:00 PM. Agenda presented by Jill. Pastor Josh led and opened with devotion. Reading from Exodus and then asked a question to the group: Have you ever had to trust a process without knowing what was going to lie ahead of you? As we face those circumstances, how do we trust God for that journey ahead?

### Standing reports:

Secretary Report and Treasures reports approved. Checking account balances are low. Big bills are paid so we need to work to get back to a good safety balance. Two large bills were paid in full: The upgrade to the Internet and live broadcasts: \$4,759 HVAC \$13,374. The internet was paid with memorial donations and the HVAC came in lower than budgeted.

Youth Committee – Sunday School started 9/10. Wendy is excited! Spread the word! SS follows church service and runs roughly 10AM-11AM. We also discussed Homecoming. The parade route comes by the church. The council decided we are going to have a tailgate party at the church. We would love to have our church members join us on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Waymakers will start 9/20 and will follow every Wednesday right after school. **Volunteers needed!** We are very excited for this opportunity to be a bigger part of the community we love and serve! **\*Loving Service**

Music Committee – Dawn Sherseth stopped by and is working with a possible new pianist named Teresa Morse. If anyone knows anyone that would be interested in playing piano during church, please reach out to anyone on the council. It is a paid position! Music is planned out through December (Thank you to the Music Committee!)

Pastoral Report – Confirmation starts 9/20 at 7:30. Thursday Bible study is going well. Talked about getting the word out on upcoming baptisms and celebrations. Josh is very excited for the Waymakers and all of the upcoming plans specifically focusing on the youth! Parental leave will be Dec-Feb. Planning in place to get lay pastors in place for his exciting time off.

### Old business:

Technology: almost finished. Need speaker connections and some streaming issues finished. Kyle Newell is working out a few more kinks. Need to wire in the TV downstairs.

Water leak: No changes on what we thought was mold. Decided to put the wall back together as best as possible until a permanent fix can be completed. Good news!

### New Business:

First communion classes: Pastor Josh has found a curriculum that he would like to use. The packet will cost \$60 and then \$9/family for the workbooks. Josh estimates it will take 3 weeks to complete the classes. If you know any child that would want to be a part of this, please reach out to Pastor Josh via email. ([pr.jwyman@gmail.com](mailto:pr.jwyman@gmail.com)) **\*joyful worship**

Harvest Dinner: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in November. The ladies are starting the planning process and Dawn has already purchased the roasts. If you have any donations or plan to make any homemade items, please plan for this date!

Work groups: Dawn Petty is chairing a committee to get our work groups updated. We always need volunteers! These groups organize funeral luncheons and help with the Harvest Dinner. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dawn via email. ([dawnpetty6@aol.com](mailto:dawnpetty6@aol.com))

Thanksgiving baskets: Agnes Beddes will be organizing this and then she will provide a list for the items needed to complete the baskets. Sunday School kids will assist putting the baskets together after church. **\*Caring relationships**

Nominating Committee: We are fast approaching our annual meeting and part of that meeting is bringing in new volunteers to fill positions. This year we will have 3 positions open, and this is a great opportunity to be a part of something good. Please approach any of the board members if you would like to be a part of this awesome group!

Melissa Walsh has graciously volunteered to host a community dinner. There will be a free-will offering that will then be donated back to the Food Pantry. **\*Loving service**

Beef raffle discussed: This was introduced during church on Sunday 9/10. We are selling raffle tickets to win some beef! The tickets can be bought at the church and if your heart wants to help, you can sell tickets as well. Reach out to Liz White or any of the council members if you are interested. Town Pump has offered to match a portion of the money raised for our Food Pantry.

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# LOVING SERVICE

(continued from page 3)

Church cleaning: Our cleaning company will be cutting back a bit so they will be cleaning every other week instead of weekly. We discussed volunteers covering the off weeks. We also discussed getting the carpets cleaned.

**Next meeting:** October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

**Mission Cornerstone:** Our council works very hard to maintain the integrity of the church. We focus on the cornerstones (all highlighted in the red text). What can you do to help? God's work, our hands!

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." **1 Peter 4:10**

**Closed with the Lord's Prayer** and meeting adjourned at 8:22PM.

## Christikon Clips

October 2023



*Information for our Congregations*

**2024 Calendar!** The calendar and sessions listing is on our website ([www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)). It's not too soon to start planning for next summer's trip to camp! Already accepting reservations! We anticipate a full season and encourage registering sooner than later.

**Fall Retreats.** We have retreats scheduled through mid-October. Start planning now to bring your group and enjoy fall in the mountains in 2024!

**We're thankful for all your prayers** this past summer, for the summer staff, for this ministry and for all who have joined in the Christikon life. 2023 held many opportunities for ministry, connections, and time in intentional Christian community. We are grateful.

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**

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## WAYMAKERS

### For Christ

With snacks and group

Activities

An afterschool program that began on September 20, 2023.

This program will be Wednesday after school until 5p.m.

For questions or to volunteer your time and resources

Call or Text 406-690-7166 or email [wendysiemsen@live.com](mailto:wendysiemsen@live.com)

### Church financial information:

The total expenses were \$6643.29

The total income for August was \$5936.04

Submitted by Lindsey Reynolds, Treasuree



**Our first Wayfinders after school was a success! We are so excited about this program! To learn about volunteer opportunities, or to get your kids involved please contact Lindsey Reynolds (406) 794-6769**



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



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