



Emmanuel News

September
2023



"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

- Isaiah 43:18-19 (NRSV)

September in Montana brings with it a gentle reminder of life's ever-changing seasons. The crisp morning air, the sound of school buses in the distance, and the golden hues of harvests being reaped in our fields all paint a picture of life's ever-changing canvas. It's a dance of endings and beginnings, a rhythm of letting go and embracing the new.

Isn't it fascinating how our lives can mirror the world around us? Just as farmers prepare for the harvest, we too find ourselves gearing up for changes. The start of the school year, with its mix of excitement and apprehension, is a testament to that. Kids with new backpacks, parents adjusting to different routines, and teachers welcoming fresh faces into their classrooms. Each of these moments, though seemingly small, carries with it the weight of change and the promise of new experiences.

The words from Isaiah resonate deeply during such times. God's promise of doing a "new thing" is not just about grand transformations but also the subtle shifts in our daily lives. It's in the joy of a child boarding the school bus for the first time, the satisfaction of a farmer looking over a bountiful field, or even in the comforting notes of a country song that speaks of life's ups and downs.

But transitions, as we all know, aren't always easy. They can be challenging, filled with uncertainty and doubt. It's in these moments that Isaiah's words become a beacon of hope. The assurance that even in the wilderness of our uncertainties, God is making a way. That even in our moments of doubt, there are rivers of hope and faith waiting to quench our spiritual thirst.

And while we navigate these changes, we're not alone. Our community at Emmanuel stands as a testament to the power of collective strength. The shared stories, the mutual support, and the unwavering faith that binds us all. It's a reminder that in every season of change, we have each other to lean on.

So, as we step into this month, let's take a moment to reflect on the transitions in our lives. The ones we've faced, the ones we're navigating, and the ones that await us. Let's embrace the "new things" God has in store for us, celebrate the transitions, and find solace in the knowledge that through every twist and turn, God's love remains our guiding light.

In this dance of life, with its ebbs and flows, let's move with grace, trust in the journey, and believe that every season, every change, brings with it blessings and opportunities for growth.

In God's ever-present love,
Pastor Josh

Christikon Clips

September 2023



Information for our Congregations

Summer season # 72 is in the books. What a journey it has been with so many opportunities for us to be about God's work. Our exceptional staff have headed back to their lives outside of camp, the campers are back at school and work, and we begin the planning for 2024.

We hosted campers from Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Kentucky, Montana, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Wonderful opportunity to connect with people from these out of state congregations and forge long lasting friendships sharing the Christikon experience.

Our special guest speakers Dr. Eric Meyer, Rev. Kent Gubrud and Paul Waldum led sessions at our CE Retreat.

Fall Retreats: We have retreats scheduled into the middle of October with a few dates still available. Bring your group and enjoy fall in the mountains!

We are grateful for your prayers for Christikon this summer, for the summer staff as they are called back into the world newly equipped to share their mountaintop experiences, and for all who have joined in the Christikon life. We ask for your continued prayers and support.

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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EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

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A special thank you to the women who helped bring food and serve at the recent Memorial service at the church. Our heartfelt condolences to the Van Berg family. You all are in our prayers.

Our "work group" lists need to be re-done, as many of the phone numbers have changed, and some of the women are no longer here at Emmanuel, besides we have new members to be included in the three groups. I will ask for some of you ladies to help me re-do the lists soon, since they have not been up-dated since the pandemic began. We will do that project in September.



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

We will need to begin planning for our annual Harvest Dinner, Auction and Bazaar, which is always held the first Sunday in November. This year it will be on November 5th.

We already have our beautiful quilt to be raffled off on that day, and it was made by the Pineview Quilters Club. It will be on display for weeks before the Dinner.

Hopefully, you all have been preparing items for the auction and bazaar. This event is looked forward to by many people in the community, and also from Billings. The food for the dinner is fantastic, from the roast beef to the homemade pies...so mark the date, November 5th, and plan to be there.

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Welcome September

Pen to paper
Paper to pen
The end of the month,
So here I go again!

No longer summer
Too soon to call fall
Its almost as if..
I don't know you at all.

Too nice to call winter.
Surely not spring.
It is all in my mind.
Or just a calendar thing?

We take your first Monday off.
Kind of a tribute they say.
Been working too much,
So enjoy Labor Day!

Patriot Day is up next.
Pray for those that we lost.
Evil wanted our attention
No matter the cost.



Old Glory should fly
On the porch all month long.
A symbol we'll fight
And stand up against wrong.

You probably wonder
Has T.C. lost his head?
A poet he is not.
From the words that were read.

Welcome September
And all that she brings.
I'm sure that this winter.
I'll think crazier things.

Your Faithful Friend.
T.C. "Longfellow" Mouse
In residence at Emmanuel.

8/9/23 Shepherd Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

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

Called to order at 7:00

Agenda presented by Jill, Pastor Josh opened the meeting with a devotion from Matthew 25 and prayer.

Standing reports:

June Secretary & Treasurers Report were both approved. The one addition will be posting the final furnace bill and the final media bill to the congregation when they are completed.

Youth Committee – presented by Wendy & Jill. Sunday school will start again on 9/10 and will have a new 52-week teaching plan. The youth committee meeting will be on 8/28 at 6:30 (anyone interested is invited). During Sunday service on 8/27 there will be backpack blessing during the service. Bring your bookbags with you. This blessing will extend to school children, college age students, and teachers.

We are also going to start a new and **exciting** Wednesday after-school program where our children and community children will meet after school here at the church for a time together. The details of this will also be discussed at the 8/27 meeting. ***Joyful Worship**

Pastoral Report – Summer BBQs discussed. Josh talked about getting ready for the upcoming school year to include confirmation and his plans for youth ministry. Josh was incredibly happy with the Vacation Bible School results and complemented all that helped with its success. With his family leave planned he will also be working out plans to continue confirmation during his absence.

Old Business: HVAC update: the air conditioner is working! Technology updates: This is still in the works, but the shelf has been installed, wiring ran, and the committee will work on getting the final preparations completed and hopefully by September we will be able to broadcast our services with more ease and with more ways of reaching out to others. ***Loving Service** Church Cross update: Waiting to get the lighting installed but the cross is finished. Decorating committee: Maryann Morgenstern will be heading this committee, if anyone of the congregation has ideas, please reach out to Miss Maryann.

New Business: Basement leak: There is/was a leak again in the basement SW corner. The floor was found very wet and after discussion there are not any specific factors that may have caused this. The council decided to tear out a larger part of the paneling to check for any further leaks. More discussion and decisions to come. (Please excuse the mess.)

1st Communion and New Member induction dates discussed and a decision to have first communion in October. New Member induction date will be decided later. Discussed 'connection cards' and possibly a 'member spotlight' type thing for the newsletter.

***Caring Relationships** Pastoral Parental leave was approved for 12 weeks. The tentative time will be from the end of November to the beginning of February. Praying for a healthy last trimester for the pastor and his wife! Music: we are looking to find another pianist to supplement our musical rotation. If you know of anyone,

please have them reach out to a music committee member. Homecoming: would our church be

interested in putting together a handout such as a candy bag or possibly even doing a small float? This was discussed and it would be a great outreach to the community.

We are pleased to announce that we will be having a Thursday morning Bible study. Thursday's at 10AM and they will meet for coffee and discussion.

Currently teaching out of the book of Esther. All are welcome! The first meeting will be on 8/24.

Counters: Aug 13-Sharon; Aug 20-Wendy; Aug 27-Carol; Sept 3-Dawn; Sept 10-Jill

Next council will be September 13th at 7pm here at the church.

At the beginning of the meeting, Pastor Josh asked what our strengths are as individuals and as a church body. Answers given were that we are friendly, have a convenient location (availability to community), and we share what we have (building and meeting place). What is YOUR STRENGTH? What can you do to serve our God? What can you do to aid the mission of our church? If you have something to share, leave a note in the offering plate or talk to one of the board members. ***Loving Service *Joyful Worship *Caring Relationships**



LOVING SERVICE

New and upcoming events:

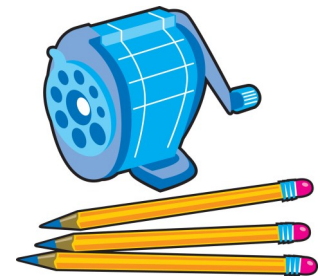
Adult Bible study for adults began on August 24th. Each Thursday thereafter at 10 a.m. At the church Adult Bible study is scheduled. The book of Esther is the starting point.

Book Club's next meeting is September 12...The Nightingale (the book). We will meet at 6.p.m. at the Feedlot steakhouse.

SHEPHERD HOMECOMING!!!

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

**WEAR YOUR BLUE AND GOLD
AND COME SUPPORT OUR
SCHOOLS**



Back to School and Go Bless the students and staff.

Have a productive and fun year!



CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

Dawn Beddes' nephew has been transferred from the hospital to a rehab facility. He has been able to move his left leg and is making good progress. Please continue to pray for improvement & recovery.

Dawn Beddes, as he has just suffered a brain aneurism and a stroke. His left side is paralyzed and he is in the hospital, and will have a slow recovery. The family asks for your prayers.

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.



- 01 Ed Oberg
- 13 Chuck Super
- 14 Ron Quanbeck
- 15 Ed Hawthorne
- 17 Kaden Christoferson
- 21 Linda Hinkle
- 21 Melissa Sherseth
- 26 Taylor Oberg



- 3 Joe & Carla Leligdowicz
- 15 David & Jill Hoffman



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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