



Emmanuel News

January
2024



We love because he first loved us. – 1 John 4:19

2023 - Wow what a year it has been.

2023 was a magnificent year of firsts and as well as strengthening traditions. On Saturday December 23rd we combined the best of both. A good old fashion church potluck with a new twist of Christmas carols. The food dishes were amazing! Also - the desserts necessitated a whole table to themselves. We might have been a little (ok a lot) heavy on the carbs and light on the vegetables - but the joy of the season of Jesus's birth was abundant.

December marked another milestone for the church. Our technology upgrade to stream church services is up and running. Our worship services can be seen in person, on the church website - elcshepherd.org, YouTube - @emmanuellutheranchurchshep4583, Facebook, and now even in the church basement! A special thanks to Kyle Newell, Jim McKenney, and Brad Sherseth for helping get everything set up.

This year we completed the installation of a new furnace and included air conditioning in the upgrade. Summer worship services and barbeques were much more comfortable this year.

Did you know we have a monthly book club? A group, that seems to grow every month, meets on the 1st Tuesday each month at the Feedlot restaurant to discuss the selected book. Even for those like me that can't seem to find the time to read the book, a fun time is had in fellowship with friends.

This year we brought back the Church Shower tradition. The church was spoiled with so many amazing gifts to keep the shelves stocks with essential supplies. The Emmons and Vanbergs outdid themselves this year to provide a heartfelt event.

A year of first would not be complete without mentioning WAYMAKERS. An amazing group of volunteers are putting on a weekly after school program for the kiddos. They have so much fun. If you haven't volunteered yet, I encourage you to do so.

This year we had even more ways to experience first-hand our mission to be a welcoming church in a rural community, called by God to JOYFUL WORSHIP, CARING RELATIONSHIPS, and LOVING SERVICE. As we move into 2024 let's strengthen our church vision... "We will follow God's plan for us to grow in faith, family, and community."

Blessings,

Jill Hoffman

ELC Council President

Christikon Clips



January, 2024

Information for Congregations

New January 2, 2024 – Camp registration will be online along with the camper information, health forms, permission forms, etc. Go to our website www.christikon.org in January and check it out!

Save the date: Christikon Benefit Auction is scheduled for April 21st.

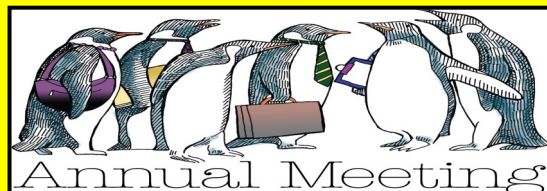
Too few of our nation's young people (not to mention adults) have significant outdoor experience. Christikon combines spirited outdoor experience within intentional Christian community that helps open people to the life of faith. Think about joining the Christikon life this coming summer. It can do a world of good...

**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

director@christikon.org • www.christikon.org



The Emmanuel Lutheran annual meeting will be on January 28th following the worship service. We will have refreshments during the meeting provided by the church council. Articles for the annual report are due on Friday January 12th to Jill Hoffman.

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and that you are ready to embrace the New Year. Yes, 2024 is upon us and I'm sure great things are in store. Did you make any New Year's resolutions for yourself? Once again I'm going to try and eat less cheese, which really is a struggle for me. I also resolved to do more for the community and church. I figure for the free room and board that my family receives at the church, I can at least donate my time in helping out where ever I'm needed. Let me know if there is something that you think I need to be involved in. I really am a Mouse of all trades.

On the 15th we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, so I think we all should read again his famous "I have a dream" speech. It seems more important now than ever to come together as a community, as a country, put aside our differences and try to live in harmony. Everyone is special and unique. Together we can accomplish so much more than we can by ourselves.

Well so far, I haven't had to break out the snow shovel very much, which is nice. I plan to take advantage of one of these nice days to take down all of the Christmas decorations and get them packed away. I really don't want to be like my cousin, who just leaves his lights up all year long. He always says that it saves him so much time, just leaving them up, but that is not how I like to roll. Hopefully January will bring us some good snow storms, so the ski hills will be ready for everyone. I really enjoy hitting the slopes with my kids and feel the wind in my fur, as I race down the hill. Unfortunately, I broke my lower leg out hunting in November, so you won't be seeing the "blur of fur" on the slopes this year. Look for me in the lodge around

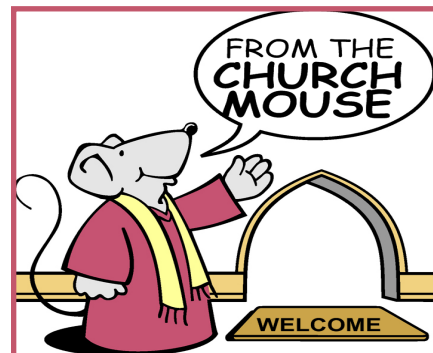
lunch time, hanging out by the fireplace, or if the sun is shining, I might be catching some rays on the deck.

Well, that is all for now. There is much to do. I need to go through my closet and pull out the clothes that no longer fit or that I don't wear and donate them. I received some nice new shirts for Christmas and I can hardly find the space to hang them up, so it is time to purge the old to make room for the new. Perhaps I should also check out the kid's ski gear and make sure it is ready to go when the big snow storm finally arrives.

See you in Church.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T. C. Mouse



We Now Accept Contributions Electronically

Our eGiving service, Vanco, provides tools to make giving simple even when you're unable to attend church. Their eGiving is safe and secure, and it allows you to designate your contribution to the church funds you're most passionate about.

eGiving lets you set up recurring giving through...

- **Mobile app** – Download the [GivePlus Mobile App](#) on the [App Store](#) or on [Google Play](#), enter the zip code for our church 59079 and give.
- <https://elcshepherd.org/donations/> – Easily enter your donation from our website.

Waymakers News!

Waymakers has been so fun to get started! We have had a wonderful attendance with so many fun kids! We are currently on our Winter break, but we are looking forward to coming back in full swing January 10th!

We will be having a meeting January 3rd to discuss reformatting and/or any ideas to make this fun after school program EVEN BETTER! If you would like to attend this meeting please reach out to Lindsey Reynolds (406) 794-6769 via call or text as we have not yet set a time.

We love our volunteers and appreciate them so much! The kids definitely enjoy getting to spend time at the church and getting involved with this program.

We are still looking for more volunteers! If you have any desire to come spend time with some of our awesome youth in the area, we would love to have you! Volunteering does not mean you need to 'teach' or 'lead' the groups, unless you would like to. We need help with having people watch kids during the free time. We need people to help make snacks in the kitchen or to pick/clean up after them. We need people to play board games, or to help with homework, or just to hang out and visit!

Your presence will make a difference in these kids lives and we want them to know that our Church is a safe and fun place to be! Please reach out with any questions to Lindsey Reynolds, Wendy Siemsen or Samantha Murnin

Youth

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

Sunday January 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

Sunday School, 10:00 - 10:45

Wednesday, January 3rd

No Waymakers

No Confirmation

Wednesday, January 17th

Waymakers, 2:30 - 5:00

Confirmation, 7:30 - 8:30

Wednesday, January 24th

Waymakers, 2:30 - 5:00

Confirmation, 7:30 - 8:30

Wednesday, January 31st

Waymakers, 2:30 to 5:00

Confirmation, 7:30 to 8:30

If you are interested in joining our church council, we have several openings, please contact Jill Hoffman if you are interested.

Treasurers Report

Novembers generous offerings put us in a positive ending for November! We still have a negative year to date. Please consider Emmanuel Lutheran Church for your year offerings in 2023. We invite you to pray for our church, as we would like to enter 2024 in a strong financial position. Thank you for your generous spirit!

	Expenses	Income	Difference
November	\$5,983.78	\$9,300.33	\$3,316.55
YTD	\$103,928.94	\$81,692.57	(\$22,236.37)



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

The Christmas wreath sales were organized by the women and the funds generated by those sales are totally going to the Youth Group. The project brought in approximately \$400.00 and will be available for a Youth Group special event, whether it is a trip, fun at the waterpark, or several movies or plays. The fresh juniper boughs on the wreaths were gathered in late November up in the hills north of Shepherd and built into wreaths by Dawn Petty and her son Rob Larson, and daughter Tari Larson. Keeping those wreaths outdoors will keep the boughs looking fresh for several months, so enjoy!

The beautiful poinsettias decorating the church for the Christmas season were purchased at Home Depot, and each one individually honors someone, or is in memory of someone. The poinsettia plants added to the beautiful Christmas decorations in the church. You can take “your” poinsettia home with you now, and “Thank you” for sharing them with us. Be sure to cover those flowers within a plastic bag for the trip to your house. There are white plastic sacks in a box in the room behind the sanctuary, and take your bag, open it wide, set it on the floor, and stand your plant upright in it. Then pull the bag up around the plant, being careful to avoid breaking the stems, and close it before carrying it out to your vehicle. That way it won’t get damaged by the cold as you take it home.

On Friday, December 1st, the Pineview Quilting Group met at the home of Dawn Petty for their annual Christmas dinner and social event. Nine members of the group are also members of the Emmanuel’s Womens’ Group, and each year everyone brings gifts along to be donated to the families served by Riverstone. Dozens of baby and children’s outfits, blankets, quilts, and boxes of diapers make up the offerings. The donations filled the car of the two ladies that came out from Riverstone to join in our meal, and the gift offerings. Also, in the spring of each year, the Quilting group does another lunch and donations of children’s items for Riverstone.



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

Waymakers Spotlight

Daisy Schultz

1. What is your favorite color? Blue
2. How many siblings do you have? 2-Della and Gabby
3. Who is your favorite teacher? Mrs. Grover
4. How much do you like Waymakers? A LOT
5. Who is your best friend? Cora and Sam
6. What's your favorite candy? Skittles
7. What's your favorite thing about church? The singing
8. What's your favorite animal? Panda
9. What's your favorite sport? Basketball
10. When's your Birthday? October 31st

Every month we have an 'Older' Waymaker or Waymakers think of some interview questions and conduct an interview of a person involved with our church.



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