

EMMANUEL LUTHERN CHURCH

JULY NEWSLETTER

2024



"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

-Matthew 28:18-20

As I was looking ahead at the upcoming texts for the month of July, there was a common theme among the passages that seemed valuable for us to explore: authority. Authority is a concept we encounter in many forms, from the laws that govern our society to the leadership within our church. But what does authority mean in the context of our Christian faith?

Authority, in its truest sense, originates from God. Throughout the scriptures, we see God as the ultimate source of authority, guiding and directing His people with wisdom and love. In the Old Testament, God's authority is evident in His creation of the world, His covenant with Abraham, and His guidance of the Israelites through leaders like Moses and David. In the New Testament, Jesus embodies divine authority through His teachings, miracles, and sacrifice on the cross. His resurrection is the ultimate demonstration of His power over life and death, offering us a model of true, self-giving authority.

In our daily lives, we often face situations that challenge our understanding and acceptance of authority. Whether it's at work, within our families, or in our community, we are called to navigate these dynamics with grace and wisdom. As followers of Christ, we are encouraged to respect and uphold righteous authority while also discerning when it is necessary to stand up against unjust or corrupt powers. This balance requires us to stay grounded in our faith and committed to the principles of justice, compassion, and humility.

Jesus provides the perfect example of how to exercise authority with humility and love. In His ministry, He demonstrated that true authority is not about exerting power over others but about serving and uplifting them. Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, healed the sick, and taught with a compassion that drew people closer to God. His authority was evident not just in His words, but in His actions and the way He treated those around Him.

Each of us, in various aspects of our lives, holds positions of authority. Whether you are a parent, a teacher, a community leader, or simply someone who others look up to, your actions and decisions carry weight. It's important to remember that with authority comes responsibility. We are called to lead with integrity, fairness, and a commitment to the well-being of those we serve. Equally, as followers, we must support and respect those in authority, offering our cooperation and constructive feedback when needed.

Ultimately, embracing God's authority means trusting in God and God's love above all things. It involves surrendering our own desires and ambitions to align with God's will. This can be challenging, especially when God's path for us is unclear or difficult. However, through prayer, study of the scriptures, and fellowship with other believers, we can grow in our understanding and acceptance of God's guiding hand in our lives.

As we reflect on the theme of authority this month, let us seek to deepen our relationship with God, recognizing God's ultimate authority in all things. Let us also strive to exercise our own authority in ways that reflect God's love and righteousness, becoming true servants and leaders in Jesus's name.

Lord, we thank You for Your unwavering authority and guidance in our lives. Help us to recognize and respect Your will, leading us to act with integrity and compassion in all we do. Grant us the wisdom to exercise our authority righteously and the humility to follow You faithfully. Amen.

May this month be a time of reflection, growth, and renewed commitment to living under God's authority.

God Bless,

Pastor Josh



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Our ELCW group has sponsored several of the Youth to attend the Christikon Camp this summer, and we will be waiting to get a report from them when they return, to let us know how much they enjoyed being there. Once a person is at the camp and takes part in the activities, they are ready and willing to return another time.

Yes, it's summer BBQ time again! We will be barbecuing each Thursday evening through July, except for the 4th of July holiday. We have had a great turn-out so far. The first BBQ brought in 40 people, who enjoyed the food and fellowship immensely. We have had volunteers for kitchen help, and Quentin McCaffree has offered to be the grill master for this summer....and he has already done a superb job! As you know, there is no charge for this event....so come out and join us. You will see a buffet of burgers and hot dogs, plus watermelon, salads, relishes and wonderful desserts. many of which are donated by the great cooks in our community. We serve from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Hope to see you there.

Check out the beautiful Community Garden while you are in the area. Many thanks to the volunteers who have tilled and planted everything. Many gorgeous flowers and vegetable plants were donated and the whole garden needs watering on a regular basis in this warm weather. If you are able to help in any way, it is appreciated. There are sign-up sheets in the back of the church.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We are still in the positive for the year! This congregation is so generous! Lets keep the momentum rolling as We head toward the Hot Summer Months! We have a great option for you to donate even if you have a other engagement. Please look into Vanco giving option.

	Expenses	Income	Difference
May	\$5,908.69	\$8,101.00	\$2,192.31
YTD	\$46,821.64	\$48,967.53	\$2,145.89

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE



Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

"Pop, bang, boom. Oooo, Ahhhh!" Do these noises sound familiar? If so, you must be getting old as well, since this is what I hear all the time when rolling off the couch following an afternoon nap. The pop, boom, bang comes from my aging joints, knees, elbows, back, you name it. Yes, I'm getting old, even for a mouse. The Oooo's and Ahhh's typically come from the Mrs.'s, who seems to enjoy watching me roll off of the couch and struggle to attain some sort of vertical stature. Everyone's a comedian, but I keep telling her not to quit her day job just yet! I keep thinking that I should invent something that will allow me to nap standing up, then when I awake, I wouldn't have to go through all of the fanfare of standing up. I just unstrap and walk away, feeling refreshed! I tried the contraption that allows you to hang by your feet, which was supposed to be good for the back, but I felt too much like my cousin the bat and all of the blood rushed to my head giving me a headache. Not a good way for me to nap.

Anyways, our nation's birthday is upon us, as we celebrate Independence Day on the 4th. I'm sure there will be a lot of fancy firework displays going off that evening and you will hear those familiar sounds. Be sure to fly the flag at your place. I know that mine will be up all week long. Whenever I see the flag and hear the fireworks, I think of Francis Scott Key writing The Star Spangled Banner, while on a ship in the harbor outside of Fort McHenry. I once had the pleasure of touring the old fort and take in all of the history that goes with it. Wow, what an inspiration it was to stand on the fort wall, looking out at the water and try to imagine what it was like on that September evening back in 1814, when Francis Scott Key penned the poem "Defence of Fort McHenry", which was later set to music and renamed "The Star Spangled Banner". If you ever get out to Baltimore, you really need to visit Fort McHenry. Happy 4th of July everyone.

The Church barbeques are off to a good start and there was quite a good showing the first week. I think that once word gets out, the weekly attendance will surely grow. Nothing better to me than the smell of an active barbeque and the sound of lively conversation as people gather once a week for this summer tradition. You know you can grill almost anything. Believe me, I've tried. If it doesn't fall through the grates, I usually try to grill it. Cheese seems to be the exception. It didn't fall through the grate at first, but quickly melted when faced with the heat, so that experiment failed! Now I know why they put cheese on top of something, like a burger or hotdog. Lesson learned!

Well enough of my crazy logic for now. Hope to see you at the next barbeque and in Church on Sunday.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T.C. Mouse



Christikon Clips

July, 2024

Information for our Congregations

**We are grateful for all the hard work that our Work Weekend crew accomplished! Great group! Check out the pictures on our facebook page. Follow us: <https://www.facebook.com/Christikon>
Thank you to one and all!**

It's not too late to register for camp this summer! Space remains in most youth sessions and in those for families and adults. You can register online at www.christikon.org or call us at the camp office for further information.

Special guest speakers become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. Continuing Education Retreat (July 29-Aug 1) – we welcome our speakers Dr. Jason Mahn Kent Claussen Gubrud– Go to our website for topics. Mountain Weekend (Aug 2-4) – watch our website for speaker(s) and topics as they become available.. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Check out topic details on the website. www.christikon.org

**Remember to pray for the staff and campers as they travel to 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 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102
406 656-1969 • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 8:45am - Church Service 10am - Sunday Bible	1	2 Duck & Donna Hutggen Jeremy Stahl Birthday	3 Independence Day Mama Stacie Grandpre 10am - Bible Study	4	5	6
7 Wade & Meagan Matchow 8:45am - Church Service 10am - Sunday Bible	8 6pm - ELC Book Club	9 Abbey Emmons Birthday 7pm - Church Council	10 Carol Bennett Birthday Tanner Emerick Birthday 10am - Bible Study 6pm - Community BBQ	11	12	13
14 Kristianne Wilson 8:45am - Church Service 10am - Sunday Bible	15 Laruel Holand Birthday 9am - Vacation Bible School	16 7:30pm - Community Bon	17 10am - Bible Study 6pm - Community BBQ	18	19 Tom Plath Birthday	20 Bob & Sharon Woiske
21 8:45am - Church Service 10am - Sunday Bible	22 Doris Hise Birthday	23	24	25 10am - Bible Study 6pm - Community BBQ	26	27 Olivia Plath Birthday
28 Lynda Newell Birthday 8:45am - Church Service 10am - Sunday Bible	29 Kyle Reiter Birthday Mark Morgenstern	30	31 10am - Bible Study 6pm - Community BBQ	1	2	3

Emmanuel Lutheran
Church
P.O. Box 66
Shepherd, MT 59079
Address Service

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 . . .



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING