

EMMANUEL LUTHERN CHURCH

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER



"Like the rain and snow that fall from the sky and don't go back without watering the earth, making it fertile and full of plants, which provide seeds for the farmer and food for the hungry; so is my word that comes from my mouth—it won't return to me empty but will accomplish everything I intended." - Isaiah 55:10-12

Spring is here, and isn't it great to see everything waking up outside? The trees are getting their leaves back, gardens are starting to bloom, and everything just feels fresh and new. It's like nature's way of hitting the reset button, and it got me thinking about the fresh starts and new growth we can foster in our own lives too. This season always brings a sense of optimism and possibility, doesn't it? Whether it's the longer days, the warmer weather, or just the vibrant colors sprouting up, spring has a way of making everything seem like it's full of potential.

Isaiah talks about how rain brings life to the earth, just like God's words bring life to our spirits. This passage is a great reminder that whatever God starts, He finishes—and He does it well. Let's keep this in mind as we look for the new things He might be nurturing in our own lives.

Next time you're out for a walk or even just looking out your window, take a minute to notice all the new growth around you. Each green leaf and new flower can be a small reminder of the big renewals God can bring about in our lives too. Think about the last time you noticed a bud turning into a blossom—it starts small and might not catch your eye immediately, but soon it unfolds into something beautiful. In the same way, the changes and growth in our own lives might start as small, hardly noticeable shifts, but given time and nourishment, they can bloom into something wonderful.

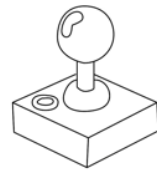
Why not take this season change as a chance to freshen up your own faith journey? Maybe pick up a new devotional, set aside a specific time for prayer each day, or join one of our church study groups. A little change can go a long way. And remember, renewal doesn't have to be a grand gesture; even the smallest step can start a journey of growth. Consider trying out different forms of prayer or exploring scriptures at a deeper level. If you're feeling adventurous, you might even start a prayer journal to track your thoughts and spiritual growth over the season.

We're getting our hands dirty this spring with our community vegetable garden, and we'd love for you to join us. It's a practical way to connect with nature and each other. Plus, it's pretty satisfying to see the fruits of your labor grow over time—literally! Gardening together not only helps feed our neighbors but also plants the seeds of community and connection. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a novice, there's a place for you to dig in.

Just like our gardens, our spiritual lives need tending. As everything around us starts growing again, let's take some time to think about how we can grow too. Whether it's through prayer, learning, or just spending more time in nature, there are plenty of ways to refresh our spirits. Consider this a personal invitation to embrace the season not just as a change in weather, but as a call to inner renewal and growth. Let's use this opportunity to shed what's old and welcome in the new, both in our surroundings and within ourselves.



Like Technology?



We are looking for additional resources to run our worship streaming. Please contact Jill Hoffman if interested.



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

SILENT AND LI AUCTION: On Sunday, April 21st, the annual Christikon Auction was held at the Billings' Depot, and it was well attended. Melissa Walsh was the caterer for this event again, and the smorgasbord of salads, relishes, meat dishes and desserts was fantastic! The display of crafts, needlework, quilts, artwork, and jewelry was large and on silent auction. The live auction, which was held in the dining area, went very well, and had beautiful paintings, quilts, woodwork, plus vacation sites to bid on. The total results of the auctions should be out soon, and we will be notified soon. A special thank you to all those who contributed to this event.

PINEVIEW QUILTING CLUB will be having a salad luncheon on May 6th, at 12:00 noon, at the Shepherd Community Center, for the benefit of Riverstone. Members will bring donations of items including baby diapers, blankets, children's clothing, quilts, etc. to be given for the relief of the homeless. The Pineview Quilters perform this benefit annually, and gather items year round for this project. We look forward to "loading up to the top" of the vehicle that the Riverstone workers arrive in, and that is always overwhelming to see. After this event, we will be back to our regular quilting days to work on more items to be given to the nursing facilities, families that have lost everything in house fires, veterans and handicapped.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

On the last Monday of May, which is the 27th, Memorial services will be held at the Shepherd Cemetery at 10:00 AM, honoring those people who have passed away. The Shepherd Lions' Club is sponsoring this event. There will be groups of veterans, speakers and musicians, plus a brief prayer service. Coffee and refreshments will be served afterwards in the basement of the church. Everyone is welcome, so come to honor those family members and friends that are no longer with us.

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE



Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

Spring is here and summer is fast approaching. I've been spending my time packing away the warm winter clothes and digging out the flip flops, shorts and tank tops. At the same time, I've been going through all of my stuff to see what I can donate. I'm kind of a pack rat at heart, as I tend to keep everything. You never know when you might need this or that, but in the long run, all of the good junk just seems to collect dust and never get used again.

The month of May is here and I get to practice my limited Spanish, if only for a day. Happy Cinco de Mayo everybody! Muchas gracias mi amigos. On the 12th of May, we celebrate Mother's Day, so Happy Mother's Day to all of the Moms out there. It wasn't until I became a parent myself, that I truly appreciated the fantastic job that my Mom did in raising my brothers, sisters and me. Being a Mom is no 8 to 5 job and I know it takes a lot of hard work. Thanks for everything Mom!

Then on the 27th, we celebrate Memorial Day, a day to remember those who served our country and paid the ultimate price. I always try to attend the service that morning, behind the church, in the land of the great granite stones. We have had some very inspirational speakers in the past and I always leave with a new perspective on life. Happy Memorial Day to everyone and I hope you enjoy the three day weekend, which typically kicks off the summer. Time to dust of the old barbeque grill and cook something up, while enjoying the company of family and friends. My motto has always been "If you can eat it, you can grill it"! I've tried it all. Sometimes a success and sometimes a disaster, which brings to mind the time I tried to grill peas. Yeah, they needed to be a little bigger to keep from falling through the grates or left in the pod. Lesson learned!

I hope to see you Church on Sunday.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T.C. Mouse

4/10/24

Shepherd Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

Present: Pastor Josh Wyman, Jill Hoffman, Dawn, Carol, Sam, Lindsey, Buckley, and Abbey. Meeting was called to order at 7PM

Agenda presented by Jill. Pastor Josh led and opened with devotion from the "Christ in Our Home" booklet.

Standing reports:

Secretary Report – No changes. Approved

Treasurer Report – No changes. Approved

Pastoral Report – Good to be back! Paternity leave to Lent was a fast flush of activity. Happy with Lent, Easter, and the special services. Gifts for confirmands? Home visits. Confirmation 5/5. New Member induction 4/21. 1st communion (4/25, 5/2, 5/9, and celebration 5/12) *Loving Service

Youth Announcements – Waymakers will continue through 4/24. Sunday School will continue for a while following church. Vacation Bible School: June 17-20 (tentatively) from 9-12.

Music Committee – Music meeting to be set with Laura. Will need to find another musician or get creative with some pre-recorded music.

Old business:

Easter review – feedback was positive. Easter was attended well.

Vanco – the board encourages the congregation to use this tool for giving. If they have any questions, have them reach out to Jill or any of the council members.

Smith Family Fundraiser. There will be a community fund raiser for the Smith Family. This is the family that lost two children in the past months in the Shepherd Community, and they have asked our church to help on this community day by helping supply food for a bake sale. The date would be 6/15/24. More information to come but let's rally around this family and what they want to do with the memorials, and they are attempting to set up scholarships as well for future use. *Caring Relationships

Endowment Scholarships through the church are still available for college age youth.

New Business:

Sip & Paint is set for 4/25 at 6:00. Dawn Sherseth will be the instructor and all supplies will be provided. There will be a fee but please come and join us! *Joyful Worship

Discussing other community projects. BBQ's, youth focused community days, etc.

Next meeting: May 8th @ 7PM

Mission Cornerstone: Mission Cornerstone – what did we talk about today that raises itself to: Joyful Worship, Caring Relationships, and/or Loving Service.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer and meeting adjourned at 7:45

If you have any updated information and our local servicemen or women deployed or otherwise, please email me at lusterfarm@q.com.. Thank you in advance of any information you may have.

Youth

Our Sunday School and youth schedules for the month of April is listed below

Sunday May 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

Sunday School, 10:00 - 10:45

No Sunday School May 5th

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL END ON May 12th

Wednesday, May 1st

Confirmation 7:30 - 8:00 pm

LAST DAY OF CONFIRMATION

Waymakers News!

April was Awesome! We ended the year on such a great high note! We have more than tripled our attendance from the start of our program in 1 short school year! The kids seem to be loving attending, learning, and interacting.

We ended the year with an awesome pizza party, ice cream and games! The kids each took home a Waymakers tee shirt to wear, designed by our very own Robin Hoffman!

We truly want this program to sustain and grow. We feel the kids are getting spiritual knowledge and understanding that, some of, would otherwise not get elsewhere. However, to grow we need more help. Please if you have any desire to volunteer for our program, the church, or any desire to explore

youth ministry, please contact us throughout the summer. We want to have an even better year next year.

We are trying to put a few things together for the summer to keep in touch with everyone. There have been a few ideas thrown around, bon fire, movie night, volleyball, but nothing has been set in stone yet. Please keep a look out for info. We will post on facebook and print in our newsletter.

Vacation Bible School will be held July 15th-18th 9am until 12 pm. Every child who would like to attend is welcome!

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!

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Expenses	Income	Difference
March	\$6,072.03	\$8,238.74	\$2,166.71
YTD	\$27,389.72	\$29,245.26	\$5,927.60

We are still in the positive for the year! This congregation is so generous! We have a large expense coming up in April, our insurance, please keep the church in your prayers, to keep us in the positive for the year! We are coming up into the summer months and know that people are busy, however, we have a great option for you to donate even if you have a other engagement. Please look into vanco giving option.



Christikon Clips

May 2024

Information for our Congregations

There is still room to register for camp this summer! Space remains in most youth sessions and families/adult sessions, including the

Work Weekend, May 24-27. Families register online.

Remember there is no cost. Just bring your willing hearts and hands! See you there!

Special guest speakers become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. During Continuing Education Retreat (July 29-Aug 1) we feature **Professor Jason Mahn**.

Session Topic: Gifted and Graced: Christian Discipleship in the Anthropocene - creation-centered discipleship that helps heal our relationship with earth.

Watch for more details on our website for both Continuing Ed and Mountain Weekend. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Full details can be found on our website www.christikon.org .

We covet your prayers for Christikon's this summer, for our summer and fulltime staff, and for all who join in the Christikon life.

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Emmanuel Lutheran
Church
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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