

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2024



When we look at our readings this month, one clear thread stands out: worship is about more than a single moment; it's about how we respond to God in every season of our lives. It's about how we choose to trust Him, honor Him, and live out His calling, even when life doesn't go the way we expect.

Take, for example, the story of the Israelites in Exodus 32. While waiting for Moses to come down from Mount Sinai, the people grew restless and decided to take matters into their own hands by building a golden calf to worship. It's a stark reminder that worship isn't just about what we do when things are going well, but also about how we react in times of uncertainty and impatience. How often do we, like the Israelites, turn to distractions or quick fixes when we feel disconnected from God? Their story challenges us to consider whether our worship is something that stays rooted in God, even when answers seem delayed or life feels out of control.

In contrast, we have the story of Hannah in 1 Samuel 1, a woman who chose to bring her deepest pain and longing before God in prayer. She didn't hide her heartache or pretend to have it all together; instead, she laid it all before God, trusting that He heard her cries. And when her prayers were answered, her response was one of praise and gratitude, captured beautifully in her song of thanksgiving (1 Samuel 2:1-10). Hannah teaches us that worship isn't about pretending everything is perfect; it's about bringing our whole selves to God, trusting that He cares about our struggles just as much as our successes.

We see another layer of worship in the story of David in 2 Samuel 7. David wanted to build a grand temple for God, a place where He could dwell among His people. But God had different plans. He reminded David that He didn't need a building to prove His presence and instead promised to establish a lasting legacy through David's line. This moment shows us that worship isn't about what we can offer to God but recognizing and celebrating what God has already done for us. It's about trusting that God's plans are greater than our own and being open to the ways He might work in and through us.

Finally, in the story of Solomon's dedication of the temple in 1 Kings 5 and 8, we see a powerful example of how worship creates a space for God's presence in our lives. Solomon recognized that no building could contain God, and his prayer was that anyone—whether from Israel or from far-off lands—could come and experience God's grace and love. This reminds us that worship isn't confined to a specific place or moment. It's something that extends beyond the church, reaching into every aspect of our lives, homes, workplaces, and communities.

So, as we embrace this season of autumn, let's take a moment to ask ourselves: How can we make worship a part of our daily lives? How can we honor God not just with our voices on Sunday mornings but with our actions, words, and choices every single day? Worship can be found in how we treat our neighbors, how we serve our families, and how we respond to those in need. It's in the prayers we offer for one another, the kindness we show to a stranger, and the way we stand up for justice and compassion in our community.

Just as the seasons change, our lives are always shifting. But in every season, God invites us to worship Him—not just with our lips but with our whole lives. He calls us to trust in His presence, to celebrate His promises, and to share His love with the world around us.

May this season be one where we discover new ways to worship God, not just in our church services, but in every moment we're given.

God Bless,

Pastor Josh





ELCW notes for October Newsletter:

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Ladies, you will soon be contacted to help at our annual Harvest Dinner and Bazaar. We will call according to our regular "work lists", which will be updated in advance. As usual, we will have the regular roast beef dinner, and be serving it from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM. The live auction will begin about 12:30. Bazaar items will be available both up in the church sanctuary and in the basement. We will need help to serve in the dining room, helpers in the kitchen, and upstairs for the auction.

We have a beautiful quilt that will be raffled off, tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Tickets are available on Sunday by the church organ. Tickets will also be available at Harvest Dinner.

Please be thinking of what you can contribute for the Bazaar and Auction (craft items, baked goods, homemade canned foods, extra (gently used) appliances and tools, children's books, toys, and house-hold items. We will need your help, donations and suggestions. You will be contacted soon.

Dawn Petty

• ————— •
Save the Date
• ————— •

— **NOVEMBER 3, 2024**
11:30 til 2:00 pm

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE



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.

We also celebrate Columbus Day on the 14th 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 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 at 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 doesn't 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 32, really don't buy into that number. Let's just say it's more like 8 squared, minus the square root of 9. 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.

I hope to see you Church on Sunday.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T.C. Mouse

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Expenses	Income	Difference
August	\$9,392.32	\$10,547.90	\$1,176.91
YTD	\$70,372.54	\$72,972.14	\$2,772.09

Submitted by Lindsey Reynolds

Treasurer



Christikon Clips October 2024

Information for our Congregations

2025 Calendar! The calendar and sessions listing is on our website (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.

We extend a huge thank you to Mark Donald for his leadership these past 12 years and we will miss him and Julie greatly! Join us in wishing them both the best in their new adventure!

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

**Shepherd Homecoming
Parade Watch Party
@Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

Join us on Friday October 4th starting at 3:30pm



WAYMAKERS

Emmanuel Lutheran Church is hosting a weekly after school program for children K-12.

WHEN

Tuesdays in 2024 from 3:35-5:00 pm

- Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- Nov. 5, 12, 19
- Spring 2025 dates TBA

WHERE

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
5515 Carey Ave, Shepherd, MT 59079

WAYMAKERS PROGRAM

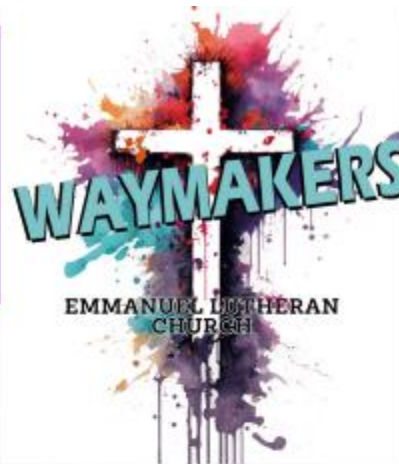
- **3:35 pm:** Waymakers volunteers walk children from school to church
- **3:45-4:30 pm:** Play and snack time
- **4:30-5:00 pm:** Bible lesson and games
- **5:00 pm:** Parent or guardian pick-up

Waymakers is intended to provide a safe and fun environment for children in the community. Pastor Josh and volunteers will lead the program.

QUESTIONS?

Email waymakerselc@gmail.com or call or text:

- Samantha at 970-318-6651
- Lindsey at 406-794-6769



IS YOUR CHILD INTERESTED IN ATTENDING?

Email

waymakerselc@gmail.com

with your child's name, grade, teacher and dates attending. Please indicate any allergies.

You will need to notify the school that your child will be attending and is permitted to walk with Waymakers volunteers.

*By signing your child up, you release Emmanuel Lutheran and all volunteers of all liability.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are willing to volunteer your time or donate snacks and drinks, please email waymakerselc@gmail.com.

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

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

“Like” us on Facebook



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING