

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

2024



Trusting His Gifts

As the summer draws to a close and we prepare to step into a new season—marked by the return to school, the resumption of routines, and perhaps the start of new endeavors—I find myself reflecting on the story of Joseph from Genesis. Joseph’s journey, filled with highs and lows, offers us a powerful reminder of the importance of trusting in the gifts that God has given each of us, especially as we embark on new beginnings.

Joseph’s life was anything but straightforward. From his early days, he was set apart by the unique gift of prophetic dreams. However, this gift, which should have been a source of pride and honor, led to envy and betrayal by his own brothers. They sold him into slavery, a moment that could have marked the end of Joseph’s story. Yet, Joseph didn’t let this setback define him. He trusted in the gifts that God had placed within him—gifts that would not only sustain him but would also ultimately save many.

Throughout Joseph’s trials—whether serving in Potiphar’s house, unjustly imprisoned, or later rising to power in Egypt—he relied on the wisdom and abilities that God had given him. His gift of interpreting dreams became the key to his survival and success, guiding him through every challenge. When Pharaoh called upon him to interpret a troubling dream, Joseph’s God-given insight not only secured his freedom but also elevated him to a position of immense authority, where he could save Egypt and his own family from famine.

This narrative reminds us that God has formed each of us uniquely, equipping us with the specific gifts we need to navigate the seasons of life we are in. Just as Joseph was created for a purpose and was given the tools he needed to fulfill it, so too have we been created with intentionality and care. The new school year, new jobs, new challenges—whatever this season brings—are all opportunities for us to trust in the gifts that God has instilled in us.

As we face these new beginnings, it's important to remember that we are not alone. God walks with us, just as He walked with Joseph through every trial and triumph. When we trust in who God has created us to be, and when we use the gifts He has given us, we can move forward with confidence, knowing that we are equipped for whatever lies ahead.

So, as you step into this new season, I encourage you to reflect on the story of Joseph. Think about the gifts that God has placed within you. How can you use them in this season? How can you trust more fully in the God who created you with purpose and will guide you every step of the way?

Lord, we thank You for the unique gifts You have given each of us. As we enter this new season, help us to trust in the abilities and strengths You have placed within us. Walk with us through every challenge and opportunity, and may we always rely on Your guidance and love. Amen.

May this season be one of growth, trust, and the faithful use of the gifts God has given us.

God Bless,

Pastor Josh

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

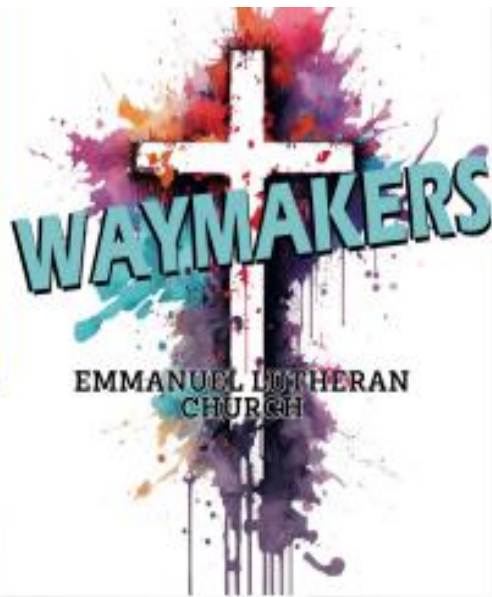
- **3:35 pm:** Waymakers volunteers walk children from school to church
- **3:45-4:30 pm:** Play and snack time
- **4:30-5:00 pm:** Bible lesson and games
- **5:00 pm:** Parent or guardian pick-up

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.



2024 September Newsletter – ELCW report

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

The annual Harvest Dinner will be held on the first Sunday in November, which is Nov. 3rd. Be thinking of that event, and what you can contribute for the Bazaar and Auction. It's not too soon to get started on a project.

We have had faithful watering folks out all summer, keeping the garden and flowers fresh and green. There are some green beans to be picked, and a few other vegetables at this time. Our group has hired a person to help get rid of the weeds and broken branches around the fire pit, and also to weed around the grape vines, and take the long vines and wind them around the stakes....so it's all looking better now. We also want to compliment the repairs done to the basketball back board. We know many young people come and practice over there.

Our ladies have the opportunity to help with a bake sale during the Shepherd Lions' Jamboree on Saturday, September 7th. I am asking the ladies what goodies each one can contribute for that sale. They would need to be set out on tables at the community center by 10:30 AM. If anyone would like to help at the Jamboree, we will need a few ladies available to be present at the tables. There will be a sign-up sheet at the church and at the Seniors Luncheons on Wednesday to offer to help.

The Pineview Quilting Club will restart their meetings on September 9th at the church. The ladies took the summer off, but we will again be making quilts for Riverstone, various nursing homes, and families in need.

There are some regular maintenance things that need to be done around the church, such as washing the windows, touching up paint, repairing the cement foundations on the east side of the building, etc. If you are willing to help, let me know. Thanks to all of you.

Dawn Petty



You're Invited!!

Please join us on Friday October 4th
For a Shepherd Homecoming Parade Watch Party
At Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Snack provided



Backpack Blessing

Join us on September 8th

During worship for a

Backpack blessing.

All are welcome!



COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE



Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

"All work and no play makes T. C. a dull mouse", so it is fantastic to start September off with a three day, holiday weekend honoring Labor Day. Of course, Mrs. T. C. tried to tell me that Labor Day is another day celebrating Mother's enduring pain of child birth and that my Mom must have had a high pain threshold when it came to me! Of course I didn't fall off the turnip truck last week, so I called her bluff and stood my ground, explaining that she clearly misunderstands the reason and meaning behind Labor Day. Anyways, happy Labor Day to everyone, and I hope you get to spend some quality time with friends and family, relaxing on the patio and fixing up some good eats on the old barbeque grill.

The final church barbeque of the summer was held a couple weeks ago. Wow, the summer sure flew by and I hate to see the end of this weekly ritual. Sure was nice to see everyone show up at the church every Thursday during the summer to share a meal together. I finally was able to sink my teeth into some of that sweet corn that I was watching grow all summer long and the wait was well worth it. The church garden is doing quite well too, as I usually do my after dinner walk through there each evening. I can't believe that the pumpkins are already turning orange! Lots to see and explore in the garden this time of year.

On the 11th we celebrate Patriot Day, so be sure to fly Old Glory proudly at your home. This is a day that should never be forgotten, a day when a group of angry people decided that they wanted our attention, a day when too many of our own innocent people were lost for no good reason. It's sad to reflect on the events of that terrible day, but one must never forget, lest we let our guard down and inadvertently leave the door open for another angry attack. Too much anger in the world and peace on earth seems so unachievable.

It won't be long before the big Harvest Dinner is upon us, so I'm trying to get some stuff together now for the raffle and auction. Yep, looks like I will be switching from craving sweet corn to dreaming about roast beef and all the fixings. I can hardly wait! Well, I better go, as the fall honey do list is quite large and seems to increase every day.

Hope to see you in Church. TC



Christikon Clips

September 2024

Information for our Congregations

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.

We also ask for prayers for Mark and Julie Donald as they prepare for their move to California. As you may be aware, Mark will complete 11 years of ministry with Christikon in September. We are grateful for his faithful service and wish him blessings as he begins a new chapter of ministry.

You can go to our website for more information and details.

Please keep the **leadership of Christikon** in your prayers as they move through the search for the new Executive Director. Watch our website and Facebook for updates as they become available.

Summer season #73 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 2025.

We hosted campers from Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Kentucky, Montana, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Texas 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 Professor Jason Mahn and Rev. Kent Claussen Gubrud led sessions at our CE Retreat and Mountain Weekend.

Fall Retreats: We have retreats scheduled into the middle of October with several dates including weekends available in September. Bring your group and enjoy fall in the mountains!

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

8/21/24

Shepherd Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

Present: Pastor Josh, VP Carol Kramer, Wendy, Dawn, Sam, Devin, and Abbey

Called to order at 7PM

Agenda presented by Jill (absent). Meeting led by Carol Kramer

Standing reports:

Secretary Report – no changes (Approved by Devin/Wendy)

Treasurer Report – no changes (Approved by Dawn/Devin)

Pastoral Report – preparing for the school year. Excited for the kids to be back in church and excited for the new lectionary. ***Joyful Worship**

Music Committee – Josh will get that scheduled with the music crew soon. Special thanks to our pianists!

Old business:

Worship assistants sign up ideas – We need more volunteers! Discussion about how to bring in more volunteers to help with ushering or reading scripture. If you have an idea, please reach out to anyone on the board as we would love to hear it!

Building Maintenance – Sump pump working well. Pastor's window repair completed. Foundation is kind of cracking in the exterior up between the doors. Threshold work. Staircase between kitchen and side door needs sealed. Workday to be scheduled soon. "God's work, our hands." Abbey will get a list of stuff that needs to be included in the workday out to the congregation. Date to be announced later. Will need to brainstorm things that need to be added to "the list".

New lectionary – Exciting and will be starting 9/8.

Homecoming Parade – still planned for Oct 4th. Tailgate here at the church during the parade and invite people to stay for community time before moving to the school for the chili cookoff. ***Caring Relationships**

Campfire community event - 8/29 after the Shepherd School's open house. We kicked around having an open invitation to come over to the church lawn for a campfire party at 6:30 with Smore's, our own type of an open house and community time. ***Caring Relationships**

New Business:

Backpack blessing 9/8. No tentative date for starting Sunday School. Waymakers has a meeting Tuesday 8/27 at 8:30 to decide on a date of the week that may work better than Wednesdays amongst other things. All are welcome at that meeting! Confirmands will have an informational session meeting 9/18. Confirmation classes start 10/2. Discussed Christikon and received a nice thank you from Jordan that will be posted on the bulletin board for all to see.

AA group asked to meet here at the church. Approved by the board but will wait for dates from the Waymaker's Group before meeting with them. *Caring Relationships

September 8th will be our big back to school kick-off! Join us for the new lectionary and bring your backpacks, briefcases, etc. for a special blessing done during the service. *Joyful Worship *Caring Relationships AND *Loving Service

Next meeting: September 11th at 7pm

Mission Cornerstone: What have we talked about today that raises itself to: Joyful Worship, Caring Relationships, and/or Loving Service.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer and meeting adjourned at 7:55

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