

EMMANUEL LUTHERN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2024



14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” 20 Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

-Romans 12:14-21

Over the past few months, we have once again been surrounded by signs and slogans, debates and opinions, all urging us to pick a side. This year, it feels like the divisions in our country are especially deep, with each side feeling more certain of their perspective and, perhaps, more frustrated by those who see things differently. We’re surrounded by messages that tell us to defend our “side” and to view those who disagree as not just wrong, but as somehow lesser or even enemies. In times like these, how do we, as followers of Christ, strive for something different?

Romans 12:14-21 speaks directly to times like these. Paul invites us to live with humility, compassion, and a commitment to peace. His words don’t ask us to give up our convictions or ignore injustices; rather, they encourage us to approach every person, even those we struggle to understand, with grace. “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with

everyone,” he writes. Imagine if this became our aim: not to change each other’s minds, but simply to treat one another with respect and kindness.

Paul continues, “Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.” This doesn’t mean agreeing with everything we hear or giving up what we believe. Instead, it calls us to respond to hostility not with anger, but with compassion and integrity. In our conversations, in our social media posts, and around our own dinner tables, we can model what it means to listen with patience, to disagree without resentment, and to speak with respect.

This kind of harmony isn’t easy, and it doesn’t mean we’ll always see eye to eye. But within our church family and beyond, our unity in Christ is a powerful testimony. Harmony is possible not because we agree on every issue but because we choose love over winning an argument and relationship over being right.

At the end of Romans 12, Paul continues, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” In this season, when we’re often asked to dwell on the faults of others, perhaps we can find a different way forward by focusing on kindness and compassion. Each small choice we make to treat one another with grace, each time we choose peace over conflict, is a witness to the love of Christ.

As we approach Election Day and the days that follow, let us hold fast to our faith, trusting that God is with us and in control, no matter the outcome. And let’s ask Him to help us be people of peace and unity, pursuing harmony not by changing minds but by extending love and understanding to everyone we encounter.

God Bless,
Pastor Josh



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN - November newsletter

We want to thank all of the many people who have volunteered to help with the annual Harvest Dinner and Auction, to be held on November 3rd. Numerous people have made donations for the Bazaar and Live Auction. We look forward to a successful event, and hope that our entire congregation, other churches in the area and many community members are planning to attend that day.

The WELCA has purchased bottled water for the Waymaker's Group, and donated funds for snacks and supplies. We plan to do an additional donation each semester.

Plans are in place to make the Christmas wreaths again in early December, with all proceeds benefiting the youth group

Dawn Petty.

10/9/24

Shepherd Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

Present: Pastor Wyman, Jill Hoffman, Dawn Petty, Carol Kramer, Lindsey Reynolds, Sam Murnin, and Abbey Emmons.

Called to order at 7PM

Agenda presented by Jill. Pastor Josh led and opened with devotion from Ephesians. Talked about the current political election and how we are called. No matter how things turn out in November, we still need to love each other beyond our decisions and the opinions we disagree on.

Standing reports:

Secretary Report – no changes. (Carol/Sam)

Treasurer Report – Budgeted to make the Montana Synod donation at \$4k, tabled discussion for November's council meeting. Motion made to move musicians off the payroll starting 1/1/25. Motion made to approve the last two treasure's reports (Carol/Dawn)

Pastoral Report – Waymaker's is good. Home visits with congregations. A lot of planning and prepping now with confirmation, Waymakers, high school Bible Study, music planning, etc.

Music Committee – Music planned out through January.

Old business:

Building maintenance – work day discussed. Lindsey & Sam will check and provide a list to fix the playground, Abbey will get L-brackets and chair brackets and exchange the carpets for the entry ways. Threshold supply stuff. Date 10/20/24 *Loving Service

Narrative lectionary update – The board has heard good things, no comments coming back directly to Pastor Josh.

Homecoming parade was good. Waymaker's float was awesome and well decorated! The tailgate party was well attended and seemed to be great way to reach out to the community. *Loving Service

New Business:

Sunday School start date – make an announcement to see if someone would step up and teach it. As of now Wendy is not going to be continuing the curriculum.

Harvest Dinner: November 3rd *Joyful Worship

Town Pump matching funds this year will NOT be a beef raffle. We are planning a 50/50 raffle that will roll through October into November.

Melissa Walsh and Basil & Bloom will be doing another dinner. Date to be decided later.

Christmas program 12/22

Christmas celebration potluck and just gathering for fellowship on 12/23 at 6pm. Make a small bulletin.

Christmas eve service on 12/24.

Nominating committee thoughts and a finance audit to be scheduled. Wendy will be leaving and one representative position was not filled last year so there will be 2 representative positions open. *Caring Relationships

Next meeting: November 11th, 7PM (Tuesday)

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

Closed with the Lord's Prayer Meeting adjourned at 8:04

- Please give some serious thought to volunteering to be on the board this coming 2025 church year. If you have any interest, questions, or concerns, we would all be willing to chat! Come and join us – God's work, our hands!

ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER

November 3, 2024 – 11:30 to 2:00

Prices--\$12 Adults

Children--(6-12 Yrs) \$6.00

Children under 6—Free

Roast Beef dinner with all the fixings and pie,
There is a Bazaar, Raffle, and Auction.

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE



Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

Wait! Don't go! Come back! I'm sorry about all of my complaining in the heat of the moment. Yes, I agree that "Dog Days" comment was uncalled for. Wow, I really hate to see her go. She never seems to stay very long. Man, I'm really going to miss her this time. Oh Summer, I wish you'd change your mind and stay longer. Well, what's done is done. The only way to quell my sorrows is to bundle up, hunker down and eat something good and warm. Thankfully the annual Harvest Dinner is Sunday the 3rd, so the Church will be full of activities, the least of which is the roast beef dinner with all of the fixings served up in the basement. I can almost taste it now. Roast beef, mashed taters, gravy, squash and more. Oh yeah, there is pie for dessert too. Perhaps a meal of this magnitude is just what I need to get me out of the funk caused by Summer leaving me.

I mustn't forget to adjust the clocks when I go to sleep on the 2nd, as Daylight Savings Time ends and we all fall back an hour. Enjoy the extra hour of sleep. Personally I wish that we would just leave the clocks alone, as it always takes me a couple weeks to adjust my internal clock to the change. I should get some new batteries for the smoke detectors also, so I can replace those at the same time that I'm messing with the clocks. The firemen are always saying to change out those smoke detector batteries at the same time as the twice a year time change. Makes sense to me, since the smoke detector can't detect anything if the battery is toast.

On the 11th we celebrate Veterans Day, a chance to recognize the Veterans that you know and thank them for their service. I often think of the friends I made when I was on the ship. I wish that I had stayed in touch better, but life kind of got in the way. Happy Veterans Day.

Then on the 28th, we celebrate Thanksgiving and the wonderful meal that goes with it. With all of this good eating, I should be up to my usual winter weight in no time. I'm looking forward to getting together with all of the kids and relatives, around a table of delectable food and telling some stories. Sure will be nice to get a long weekend away from

work too. I hope you all have a happy Thanksgiving and enjoy your time with family and friends.

Well, I better go for now. I have to dig out the hat, gloves, scarf, boots and old union suit, now that Summer left me. I know, eventually she'll be back. I'll just have to wait, maybe leave the light on for her. Maybe go fishing before the water freezes.

See you in Church.

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

November 2024

Information for our Congregations

Our 2025 summer calendar is set and, on our website, (christikon.org). If you have questions about the 2025 season or would like to register, give us a call or do so online. It was a powerful summer of ministry this year, and we look forward to welcoming you to camp in the new year.

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be on Sunday November 17th at 3:30pm. We'll tell stories from the summer and share plans for the 2025 season, construction, and much more. Our meeting will be a hybrid – meaning that we would love for you to come in person but if you cannot attend, you can join on Zoom. The in-person meeting will be at the Big Timber Lutheran Church.

We ask for prayers for our **Executive Director Call Committee** as they do their work and as we prepare to welcome a new director. We trust that God is present in this process.

We continue to hold you in prayer as together we navigate these uncertain times. We also trust in, and give thanks for, a God who promises to never let us go, no matter what life throws our way. May God bless you and yours as we move through fall and towards the holiday season and the new year

Thank you as always for all the ways you support 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
27 8:45am - Church Service 10am - Sunday Bible	28 Wendy Siemsen Birthday	29 Samantha Leligdowicz Tanner Emmons Birthday 6pm - Confirmation	30 Heather Plath Birthday	31 Hailey Hoffman Birthday Shelby Siemsen Birthday 10am - Bible Study	1	2 Hailey Reynolds Birthday
3 Landon Larsen Birthday Sierra Stahl Birthday 8:45am - Church Service 10am - Sunday Bible 11:30am - Harvest Dinner	4	5 6pm - Confirmation 6pm - ELC Book Club	6	7 Raedawn Pasco Birthday 10am - Bible Study	8	9 Daniella Leligdowicz James Malchow Birthday
10 Louis & Rachelle Garcia 8:45am - Church Service 10am - Sunday Bible	11 Veterans Day	12 6pm - Confirmation 7pm - Church Council	13 Paul Cooper Birthday Randy Vanberg Birthday	14 10am - Bible Study	15	16
17 8:45am - Church Service 10am - Sunday Bible	18	19 6pm - Confirmation	20	21 10am - Bible Study	22 Charles Noland Birthday Sharon Wolke Birthday	23
24 8:45am - Church Service 10am - Sunday Bible	25	26 6pm - Confirmation	27 Mark & Connie Halvorsen	28 Thanksgiving Day 10am - Bible Study	29	30

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

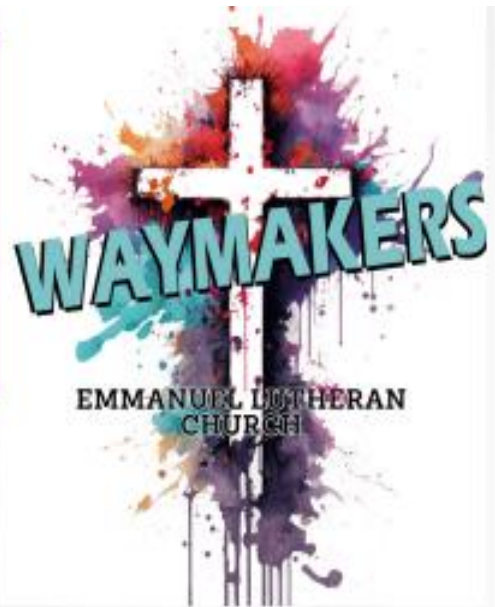
- **3:35 pm:** Waymakers volunteers walk children from school to church
- **3:45-4:30 pm:** Play and snack time
- **4:30-5:00 pm:** Bible lesson and games
- **5:00 pm:** Parent or guardian pick-up

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