

EMMANUEL LUTHERN CHURCH

JUNE 2025



I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

- Philippians 1:6

This summer, we're setting out on a journey. Not just to reflect on where we've been, but to look ahead with open hearts and renewed imagination.

We believe that God is always doing a new thing. Planting seeds of grace in our midst, calling us into deeper relationships, and nudging us toward bold acts of love and service. Our job as a congregation isn't to have it all figured out. Our job is to stay open, stay listening, and stay ready to follow where the Spirit leads.

That's exactly what our upcoming series, **"Who Are We Becoming?"**, is all about.

Starting June 15th, over the course of six Sundays, we'll explore some of the most important questions a church can ask:

What is the Church meant to be?

What values and hopes shape our life together?

What future is God inviting us to help create in this time and place?

These aren't questions with easy or one-size-fits-all answers. But they're essential questions for a church in motion, a church discerning its next faithful step. Our hope is that by the end of this series, we'll begin to see more clearly who we are becoming and where our shared gifts, passions, and stories might be leading us next.

To guide us, we'll be spending time in two powerful books of Scripture: the Book of Acts and the letter to the Philippians. *Acts* invites us to walk with the earliest believers as they form a Spirit-filled community shaped by courage, generosity, and faith in action. *Philippians* brings us into Paul's joyful, pastoral heart—a vision of church rooted in love, humility, and partnership in the gospel.

This series follows a liturgy of becoming; a rhythm of prayer, proclamation, and communal listening that invites us to grow in faith and clarity together.

- **First, we reflect.** At the beginning of each week, we'll share a short set of guiding questions to take home. These questions are meant to stir your thinking and praying, whether privately, around the dinner table, or during a quiet walk with God.
- **Next, we worship.** Each Sunday's sermon will draw from Acts and Philippians to engage that week's question. We'll listen for what Scripture might be saying to us right now; about who we are, what we value, and what we're becoming.
- **Finally, we gather in conversation.** After worship, we'll hold a more intentional time of shared reflection during coffee hour. These conversations will give space to name what we're hearing and seeing—both individually and as a community. They'll help us recognize shared threads, discover new insights, and begin imagining where the Spirit might be leading us next.

We don't have to have all the answers to begin this journey. All we need is a willingness to listen, to Scripture, to one another, and to the quiet promptings of the Spirit. Let's walk this road together with courage, curiosity, and hope. I can't wait to see what we'll discover, together.

God Bless,

Pastor Josh



June ELCW notes:

The ladies from Emmanuel have been active as usual with church activities. We have purchased study Bibles to be given to the group that will be confirmed soon. We are also planning for the summer BBQ's to be held weekly at the church on Thursday evenings, beginning on June 19th and going through July. We always appreciate any help in the kitchen, and receiving side dishes that you might contribute. So, keep that in mind, and we hope to see you there!

Some of the women from Work Group C, Louise Nunemaker, Carol Kramer, Roseanne Plath, Jennie Ingram and myself, provided snacks and coffee at the recent memorial service for Willa McSweyn, on Thursday, May 22nd. Hopefully that was a comfort for the McSweyn family and those people who attended the memorial at the cemetery.

A quilt was given to each of the graduating seniors from our church by the Pineview Quilting Club. The young men, Cole Hoffman, Nate Reynolds, and Hank Rossow were delighted. Pictures of them receiving the quilts will be on display at the church basement.

The free summer concerts at St John's will begin on Thursdays in mid-June, starting at 7:00 PM. A complete list of the entertainment will be posted at church or is available on the St John's United website. The first concert will be held up at Wyndstone in the Heights on June 19th, with other concerts being held at the St John's campus on the West End. Several members of Emmanuel, as well as the Hardin Church, will be volunteers at one of the concerts in July. If you'd like to volunteer to help, please check with Jennie Ingram for more details.

Respectfully,

Dawn Petty, President of

The Women's Group

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE



Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

Hello June, I've been expecting you. What a wonderful month, with lots to do and celebrate. First off, Mrs. T.C. and I will embrace another anniversary! Yep, thirty-four years of marital bliss. Or as I like to refer to it, thirty-four years of successful co-habitation! Happy anniversary Pooky. Time sure flies when you see it in the rear view mirror. On the 14th we celebrate Flag Day, so be sure to fly Old Glory proudly at your place, in honor of the colors that don't run.

Father's Day is on the 15th. Hopefully you can spend some quality time with Dad on this day. A fishing trip sounds like fun and if you are successful, you will have something to throw on the old grill later in the day. Happy Father's Day to all the Dads out there. Then on the 20th, summer officially arrives. Let the outdoor adventures begin. I hope to do some day hikes this summer to special mountain lakes that I've read about. Every year I plan to do this, but never take the time to just get'r done. It always seems like the toils of life get in the way of doing what I want to do. I've always said that if I didn't have to work forty hours a week, I could complete many more adventures, but without the job, I have no money and can't afford to play. It's a vicious circle. I just need to plan my free time better.

I believe the summer barbeques will be starting up again this month too. I sure love to see all the people showing up to enjoy flavors of the grill each week. I wonder what new things we can try this year. During coffee in the Church basement after the Memorial Day service, I heard a couple talking about a grilled dessert that I really must try. They would grill peach halves and then serve them with a scoop of vanilla ice cream in the pocket where the peach pit used to be. Sounds pretty good. I will test it out on the family to see if it really does taste as scrumptious as they described.

Well, that is enough from me for now. Take time to get out and see this great state and all she has to offer. I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T.C. Mouse

5/6/25

Shepherd Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

Present: Pastor Josh Wyman, Sam Murnin, Kristianne, Jack, Lindsey, Dawn, Carol, Jill, Jeanne, and Abbey.

Called to order at 7PM. Meeting location was at the Feedlot Steakhouse.

Opening Devotion led by Pastor Josh.

Standing reports:

Secretary Report – Abbey will amend last month's minutes. April's meeting minutes should have included that the council will be seeking outside help from two companies. The goal of this out-reach will be to move towards financial stability and more unity within our congregation and council members. More information to come. Minutes, with the amendment were voted on and passed. (Jill/Carol)

Treasures Report – General discussion. No changes. (Kristianne/Jill)

At the June meeting the council is going to talk and plan around our mid-year budget. Abbey will provide a statement showing the giving units (no names) and the amounts of giving compared to the past year. Vanco information will be provided showing the amount of on-line giving (no names) and Lindsey will bring balances of all of the accounts. Our focus for our June meeting will be budget and attempting to get back on track with our income vs. spending.

Pastoral Report – Pastor is always talking about ways to change or move forward and he talked about some changes to the sermon guidelines. Maybe even moving the sermon focus to the coffee hour as a follow-up or a way to "talk about" the sermon after the service is over. (*Joyful Worship) Pastor talked also of the upcoming Confirmation celebration. The ladies group will present Crosses & Bibles and Pastor will need to get the certificates signed and ready. (*Loving Service) Vacation Bible School will be June 23-26 from 9AM-12PM. Curriculum will be purchased from the money set aside for Vacation Bible School. Pastor is looking for volunteers and we will provide a list of "needs" that you can volunteer to bring as a donation. (*Joyful Worship) (HELP WANTED SIGN INSERTED HERE.)

Old Business:

Building Committee – We have a partial bid in place! We are waiting for one more portion of the altar area and then prices on some lighting and ceiling fans from the building committee. The committee will be ready to present this to the congregation sometime in June. Abbey has a co-worker that is a pretty good artist drawing up a picture as well for the presentation. Summer BBQ'S – our church, with the awesome ladies of the ELCW, will be starting up the Summer BBQ's as a community event (yeah!) These will start June 19 (Thursdays this year) -August sometime. (*Loving Service) We will be asking for some assistance from everyone to make these fun. Kids, friends, games, community, and BBQ? – yes please! Bring a friend! Congregation Feedback Committee and Congregation Planning/Coaching – this committee was formed a few months ago and the team reported back some of the findings (without NAMES!) The council then spoke about the things that we can do to change to better our church. Jill will

type up a small update from the meetings we had with the outside agencies for the next newsletter.
(*Caring Relationships)

Counters: May 25-Carol // June 1-Carol // June 8-Kristianne & Jack // June 15-Dawn // June 22-Jill

Next council meeting June 17th 7PM

Mission Cornerstone – what have we talked about that will raise itself to Joyful Worship, Caring Relationships, and Loving Service?

Closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:50PM.

**** There will be a work day following church service on June 8th. Jill will prepare a list of stuff that needs attention and Kristianne & Jack will plan some food for the helpers. Please stay and help if possible. God's work, our hands. ****



June, 2025

Information for our Congregations



We kick off the season with Staff Training on June 1st, followed quickly by our first camper session for Adults with Developmentally Disabilities.

Family Adult Camps: Our speaker will be **Dr. Dave Ellingson** for the **Continuing Ed. Retreat (July 27 – August 2)**. Dr Ellingson topic will be “Go Outside and Play”. He is also known as the “Paddle Pilgrim”. See more details about him on our website. www.christikon.org

Mountain Weekend (August 2-4) speaker TBD. Register for this fun and relaxing weekend on our website. www.christikon.org

New this year: We offer a Contemplative Artists Retreat July 7-10 open to adults 18+. Join **John Hermanson**, Christikon’s 2025 Artist-in-Residence, and **Maren Haynes Marchesini**, Director of Worship and Music at Hope Lutheran in Bozeman, for a restful artist retreat. See more details about Johnny and Maren and register on our website www.christikon.org

Campers! There is still room in our on-site programs and limited trails sessions openings. Register now. Go to <https://christikon.org/registration-individual-information/>

Remember to pray for your congregation’s ministry through Christikon this summer, for the summer staff who begin their journey soon, and for all who join in the Christikon life.

It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ— exploring God’s creation and the adventure of life together.

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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 . . .



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
JOYFUL + CARING + LOVING