

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2025



“From him the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.”

-Ephesians 4:16

The things that last in this world are rarely the work of one person. They’re the work of people pulling together, each bringing what they can, and trusting that it adds up to something bigger. We see it in families who find a way through hard times, in neighbors who show up for each other, in communities that keep going not because one person does everything but because many people do what they can. The power comes from being in it together.

The same is true for the church. Sometimes in worship planning, we talk about the word “liturgy”. It sounds formal, but it simply means “the work of the people.” And that’s exactly what worship is, something shared. It isn’t the work of one or two who stand up front, but the shared offering of the whole body. When a greeter hands you a bulletin at the door, when someone steps forward to read the prayers, when bread and wine are carried to the table, when another pair of hands passes the offering plate, when treats are brought for coffee time, those things don’t happen by themselves. And they’re not just chores on a list. They’re the Spirit working through us, making sure that what we share here is shaped by many voices and many hands.

Paul calls this being the body of Christ. Eyes and ears, hands and feet, all parts belonging, all parts needed. And the truth is that your role here matters. This congregation is not whole without you. God has given you gifts that no one else can bring in quite the same way, and when you share them, the whole body is strengthened. Whether it’s teaching, serving, listening, praying, lending a hand, or simply showing up faithfully week after week, your presence carries weight. God has a purpose for you in this community, and through you, Christ is made known.

Because your role matters, it may also mean that God is inviting you into something new. To try something new in this community of faith. Maybe that means lending your voice in worship, or serving in a role you've never considered. Maybe it looks like offering encouragement to someone who needs it, or showing up in a way that stretches you. However it comes, these invitations are part of how God shapes the church. Through many people bringing their gifts together so that Christ's love can be known among us.

That's what makes the church who we are. Not a single program or a single person, not one big event or one shining moment, but the steady faithfulness of God's people gathered, serving, praying, and showing up together. This congregation is who it is because of you, because of the way God's Spirit is alive in your lives and because of the way you bring those gifts into this community.

So as this season turns, remember that you are part of something bigger than yourself. You are a member of Christ's body, and your gifts, your prayers, your presence, they matter more than you know. Together, by God's Spirit, we embody Christ's love in this place and beyond.

God Bless,

Pastor Josh

Pastor Josh Office Hours:

Wednesdays - 9:00-11:15, 12:30-2:00

Thursdays - 7:30-10:00, 11:00-1:00

Or available by appointment





ELCW notes for October Newsletter: October 2025 Newsletter – ELCW Group

Our ladies still get together to work on various projects for the benefit of the community. We had a fantastic turnout of goodies made by the ladies from the church and the Seniors Alliance for the annual Shepherd Lions' Club Jamboree, which was held on Saturday, September 6th at the local Community Center. Our Bake Sale was a very successful event, and Jamboree's silent and live auctions were great fundraisers.

A group of about 10 or 12 women have been meeting on the first Tuesday each month at the Feedlot Restaurant to participate in the "Book Club", which gives us a chance to get together, enjoy a meal, and discuss a book that the group chose and read for the month. We also have time there to communicate with one another, so we all know what is going on in our community. We'd love to have additional members, so please join us if you are interested.

Our "Community Garden" was started more than ten years ago by the women, and it has become a popular spot for people to pick fresh produce and take it home to enjoy. The women have always signed up to do the watering, planting and weeding, and are thankful for all their time and effort put into the garden. It's a popular spot for our community and Food Pantry visitors to get fresh vegetables.

Many of our women are also members of the Pineview Quilters, and as we cannot hold our monthly quilting sessions at the church basement, we have been able to continue the work at the home of Bonnie Wilson. She has stored many of our quilting supplies at her home until we can get back to using the church facility again. Our group has always made a quilt to be given to each of the graduating students from our members, and that has become a popular gift.

We women will continue to be active in one way or another as we wait for our church building to be restored.

Yours in Christ,

Dawn Petty, President of the Women's Group

Christikon Clips

October 2025

Information for our Congregations



Join us in celebrating the installation of Executive Director **Heather Wigdahl** with a special service and reception!

When: Sunday October 19th

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Where: St. John's United, Lillis Chapel

Bishop Ben Quanbeck will preside and preach.

Worship will be led by John Hermanson and Maren Haynes Marchesini, featuring their liturgy "*Isaiah—Is This the Fast We Choose?*"

All are welcome!

2026 Calendar and sessions available on our website (www.christikon.org). It's not too soon to start planning for next summer's trip to camp! Already accepting Group Reservations—reserve sooner than later to save your group's spot! We anticipate a full season. Camper registrations open January 6, 2026.

Fall Retreats scheduled through late October. Start planning now to bring your group and enjoy fall in the mountains in 2026!

We're thankful for all your prayers: for our summer staff, for our shared ministry and for all who join in the Christikon life. 2025 has been full of meaningful ministry, connections, and community. We are grateful!

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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COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE



Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

October is here and the weather she be a changing soon. It won't be long, and we all will be back to shoveling snow. On the 13th we celebrate Columbus Day, which really is just an excuse for government and banker types to get the day off, while the rest of us working stiffs continue to work. I still believe we should go to a four-day work week and have a three-day weekend all year long, so we can have more time to get stuff done around the house. Perhaps I should send my idea to POTUS for review and possibly a presidential proclamation. I'll let you know how that turns out.

Have you ever noticed in a social setting that people, upon learning your specialty or profession, always try to get a free on the spot diagnosis? We've all done it before. I met a mechanic once and immediately started to tell him about the funny noises my car makes and asked him what he thinks it could be. A farmer must know everything about plants and growing of things, so I feel compelled to ask him questions about why my watermelons don't grow as big as my neighbors. I ran into my dental hygienist out and about once and curiosity forced me to bring this subject up. (Yes, even a mouse needs to go to the dentist on a regular basis!) Anyways, I told her about the mechanic and farmer situation and wanted to know if she too, runs into the same problem. Does a complete stranger, upon learning she works in the dental field, open wide and say, "What do you think the problem with this here tooth is?" Laughing out loud, she told me that it happens all the time! Funny how predictable people can be. Anyways, now you are prepped for my latest inquiry. I know a little about a lot of stuff. I know a lot about a little stuff. I'm very tuned into time. I don't like to be late to anything. A teacher in my youth once told me "To be five minutes early is to be on time. To be on time, is to be late. To be late is never to be heard." I really took this to heart and I'm often fifteen minutes early to everything, as I'd rather wait than be late.

So, my friend recently commented on my punctuality and said that I'm really into time. She said her friend is having problems with her Grandfather Clock and wanted me to look at it. Fix it if I could. Without any self-awareness, my eyes got big, and my mouth dropped open. I kind of stuttered in my reply. "I, I, I, well in my youth I've run around inside of a Grandfather Clock a time or two, but I'm really no expert at the internal workings of a clock!" Still, she persisted in her request, so now I have some reading to do, so I possibly by some stroke of luck, can help her out. How do I get myself into these situations? I wanted to tell her the obvious, that even a broken clock is correct twice a day! I guess I'll see what I can do. Now you know what keeps me up at night.

Mrs. T.C. is celebrating another big birthday this month. I must come up with something fun and special to help her celebrate. I'm thinking some kind of cheesecake for her birthday cake. The candles are going to represent a forest fire! Maybe a night out on the town. Anyways, let me give her a shout out, Happy Birthday honey! Perhaps we can visit a thrift store to find stuff for our Halloween costumes. I need to get going on those ASAP, as the 31st will be here before we know it. My options are endless. I could be a mechanic, farmer, dentist or a Horologist (clock maker)! LOL

Enough nonsense for now. Happy Halloween everybody. Keep some Snicker bars on hand, as they are my favorite.

See you in Church.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T.C. Mouse

9/9/25

Shepherd Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

Present: Pastor Josh (zoom), Sam (zoom), Carol, Dawn, Jack, Kristianne, Jeanne, Jill, and Abbey

Called to order at 7PM at Dawn Petty's home. Thank you for hosting again!

Agenda presented by Sam & Carol

Standing reports:

Secretary Report – No changes. (Kristianne/Jack)

Treasurer Report – No report

Pastoral Report – Pastor Josh provided a copy of his Pastoral Report for us to read. September 29th, Linda Troyer will cover our church service while he is out of town. Melissa Walsh with Basil & Bloom wants to do another free community dinner to assist with funds for our matching Town Pump grant with the food pantry funds. Date TBD. 10/5 Big Sky Chorus will be out during service to lead/assist with our music during church. Confirmation Handbook presented to the council.

Youth Committee – Confirmation and Youth Sunday to resume. If your child is interested in helping with the youth Sunday on the first Sunday, please reach out to Jill Hoffman. We planned a “watch party” for our Homecoming Parade. We will serve a few snacks and drinks and allow anyone to join us for a great place to watch the parade and a chance for some fellowship. We also talked about maybe partaking in a “truck or treat” the day of Halloween. This would be a fast stop by for the kids in the neighborhood before going out for the night trick or treating. If you would like to donate some candy or goodies, please reach out to a council member.

Old business:

Storm/Insurance Update – Not many updates as we are waiting for the insurance and the adjustors to complete their end of each of the portions of the adjustment. The sheetrock has been removed downstairs. We have had questions from the insurance on the previous storm damage that we are also working through. They are asking for proof of what was done and we are working to provide those. ServePro is still on the schedule to get their portion done for the abatement (carpet in the fellowship portion and I believe some items in the kitchen.)

King of Glory donated us a gift of \$2000 just because they knew we needed it and we are very grateful! That check was deposited into the building fund. KOG also suggested that we enter into their grant application for a possible grant of \$5000 more to be used towards our building restoration. Pastor Josh had the application for review and would submit the application right after the meeting to meet the deadline. Prayers that they accept our application as that \$5k will be very helpful with our needs!

We spoke of the Congregation Feedback Committee and Kristianne presented a lot of information. She reached out to a few other Lutheran Churches and she is calling her work “Creation of Connections” and will report more as she gets more information. Kristianne feels that we do a good job with our outreach

but wants more. She suggested we reach out to new members and visitors and would like to find create something to get more feedback about what makes people come to church. She found a survey online and found that most members (other churches answers) want a connection. We need to explore “their” purpose. She also said her that personal outreach was the best way to identify ways to connect with them. Connection Cards in the pews would be a good way to have our members openly reach out without having to single out anyone. Kristianne volunteered to create a connection card for review in our next meeting. We also want to move forward with Jill’s idea to have a “welcome bag” for the visitors. Something in hard copy showing what our church does like a pamphlet or something of that nature and maybe a treat or something kid friendly if they have young children.

New Business:

Harvest Dinner – we will have to see where the remodel is at to know if this will be possible this year. We also discussed seeing if we could possibly move this to another location or perhaps do this in the spring of 2026. More information to follow.

Organization of Login’s and Passwords for the church. Tabled.

Next meeting: October 7th at Dawn Petty’s house at 7PM. (Counters: 9/21 Jeanne, 9/28 Jill, 10/5 Dawn, 10/12 Carol. Treats: 9/21 Jeanne, 9/28 Jill, 10/5 Abbey, 10/12 Carol)

Mission Cornerstone: Emmanuel Lutheran Is a welcoming church in a rural community, called by God to Joyful Worship, Caring Relationships, and Loving Service! What can you do to further our Cornerstone?

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer and meeting adjourned at 8:20.

If you or anyone in your family has any connections that would assist our council with the pending remodel/restoration, please reach out to a council member. We can and will take all the help we can to keep within our minimal budget.

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