

EMMANUEL LUTHERN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

2025



"I will be with you."

—Exodus 3:12

September always feels like it sneaks up on me. One minute it's late summer and the sun lingers, and the next there's this quiet shift, emails start piling up again, schedules begin to tighten, practices and meetings pop back onto the calendar, and even if you're not living by a school bell anymore there's still this sense that the pace is changing and we're all trying to remember how to make the pieces fit together without dropping any of them on the way to the car.

As a church we're doing a little "restarting" too. We are stepping back into the Narrative Lectionary, beginning at the beginning again, as a way of walking through the big story together and paying attention to how God meets ordinary people in the middle of real life. And what strikes me about these opening stories is just how messy they are. Creation itself begins with swirling chaos before order takes shape. Abraham doesn't know how the promise will hold until God provides a ram in the thicket. Jacob runs straight into the consequences of family conflict and still wakes up to discover God right there with him. And Moses, when called to lead, stumbles through excuses and doubts only to be reminded that the most important part wasn't his qualifications anyway, but the presence of God who promised, "I will be with you."

That feels about right for September. For some of us the chaos looks like color-coded calendars that still somehow overlap, trying to juggle pickups and drop-offs and remembering which door the new office uses now. For others it's shifting routines at work, or the strange quiet of a house that used to be louder, or the steady rhythm of appointments and errands that don't pause just because the season changed. However it looks, the start of fall can feel both like a fresh slate and like trying to catch your balance while everything shifts around you.

So here's the simple word I want you to carry as we turn the page together, you do not have to get everything sorted before God shows up. You don't have to have the system perfected or the routine settled or the courage fully formed. If the call this fall is to try something new, or to keep going at something ordinary, or to make one phone call you've been putting off, the promise isn't that it will all feel easy, the promise is God will be with you. The Holy One who spoke light into darkness and led nervous, uncertain people through seasons of change still walks into classrooms and staff meetings and kitchen tables and waiting rooms today. And while God rarely hands out the whole plan on day one, there is usually enough light for the next step, and often enough help for the one after that.

As we listen to Scripture this month, we'll keep an ear out for that message. God with us in the middle of things. Not once everything calms down, not after the calendar behaves, but right in the middle of it. a conversation that goes better than you expected, a kind word at exactly the right time, a quiet hour that feels like it was handed to you, the sense (however small) that you are not carrying this all by yourself. Those are the ordinary ways grace makes itself known.

We don't begin this season on our own. The same God who met His people in the middle of their chaos still meets us in ours, giving us enough light for today and enough hope for tomorrow.

God Bless,

Pastor Josh Wyman

Pastor Josh September Office Hours

Wed. Sept 3 - 12:30-3:30

Thu. Sept 4 - 8:30-11:30

Wed. Sept 10 - 12:30-3:30

Thu. Sept 11 - 8:30-10:00, 11:00-12:00

Wed Sept 17 - 12:30-3:30

Thu. Sept 18- 8:30-10:00, 11:00-12:00

Wed Sept 24 - 8:30-11:30

Thu. Sept 25 - 8:30-11:30

Storm Damage Repair Updates

Repairs will begin in the basement in early September. Asbestos abatement will be done in the downstairs office, storage room and stairwell by Safetech. The remainder of the basement, as well as exterior work, will follow. If you have skills that you would like to share to help in the reconstruction of the basement, please reach out. For any questions on the status of repairs or the storm insurance claim, contact Samantha Murnin at 970-318-6551. September 2025



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

The women from the church have been faithfully watering plants and working in the garden to keep everything growing well and looking great. One of the large pots of flowers by the church door had to be redone due to the intense heat and battering hailstorm, but all is well right now. Hopefully we won't have frost for a while yet.

The Pineview Quilting Club will be working on their quilts this month over at the Community Center. We had to move all the tubs of materials and the sewing machines out of the basement and store them in the garage at Bonnie Wilson's place until we could use the church basement again. The Quilters have donated a quilt to the Shepherd Jamboree Auction for September 6th and have also one quilt ready for auctioning off at the Harvest Dinner.

The Harvest Dinner and Auction is usually held the first Sunday in November. This year we will set a date whenever that can be held after the church repairs are completed. It may be a Winter Festival instead of Fall!

Dawn Petty

President, ELCW Group

Christikon Clips

September 2025

Information for our Congregations



We are grateful for your prayers for Christikon this summer, especially for the summer staff as they return from the mountain after a season of serving, guiding, and growing together around our theme, **Hopeward**. They've led campers on trails and in worship, cared for community with joy and resilience, and discovered Christ's presence in unexpected places. Now they carry new friendships, deeper faith, and a spirit of hopeward living back into their everyday lives. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for them!

We also ask for prayers for Heather and her family as they complete their move from Menomonie, WI to Billings. We celebrate with them as they join our community.

Summer season #74 is in the books. What a journey it has been with so many opportunities for us to be about God's work. We are grateful for all of our wonderful campers who joined the Christikon community this summer and who now remain a part of it!

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: Dr. Dave Ellingson led sessions at our Continuing Education Retreat and Paul Waldum led sessions during Mountain Weekend Family Adult Session.

Fall Retreats: We have retreats scheduled through the month of October with several dates including weekends still available. 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.

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8/6/25

Shepherd Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

Present: Pastor Josh Wyman, Sam, Carol, Jill, Jeanne, Kristianne, Jack, and Dawn. Hosted by Dawn & Tari with goodies and lemonade. Thank you!

Called to order at 7PM.

Devotion led by Pastor Josh with a reading from 1 Peter, Chapter 2, v4-5 and v9-10

Standing Reports:

Secretary Report – This was submitted by Sam last month as Abbey missed the last meeting. There were no changes.

Treasurer Report – General discussion. Only question on the budget list was an entry for a utility bill for \$150. Lindsey was not at the meeting to let the council know what it was for so Jill said she would ask and then follow-up. There were no changes.

Pastoral Report – Pastor spoke about a pastoral plan he had emailed the team and we all liked the layout and the plan. Confirmation classes will run from Sept through May. The teaching for this year will be the Old Testament. Pastor spoke of the lectionary we are using during our Sunday services and the council chose to go back to the “common lectionary”. Some ideas were brought up on how to better serve the congregation and our community and Josh suggested, in lieu of Waymakers, we try to plan a monthly function of some type like a BBQ or a game night or focus on the functions at the school and maybe have a tailgate party at the church. The council agreed to this idea and we brainstormed some ideas. Jill (kind of) volunteered to work on helping with this and we will focus on some ideas for the next meeting. (As a congregation member reading this, if you have any ideas, please reach out to a council member.) During the storm cleanup, Carol found a Baptism History Book. We are going to work on cleaning that up and having it available for the congregation to see. Pastor will also be starting the High School Bible study group up again on one of the weekday mornings. (Congregation members, if you know of a high school student that would be interested in joining this, please reach out to Pastor Josh. Those high schoolers do not have to be members of the church to partake in the word!)

Old Business:

Storm updates and Insurance updates – This portion of the meeting was led by our president. She was thorough and provided so much information. Hard data: Insurance provided us a check for approx. \$105K to include money for the exterior, the roof, the broken windows, and a small amount for the interior damage. The difficult part of this bid is that we have to hire a restoration company to remove some of the sheetrock in the office portion of the downstairs area and to remove the carpet due to health reasons for mold and asbestos. Our bid from ServePro was approximately \$22K. A small portion of that is covered but since the insurance didn't provide us much interior coverage, this money will have to be taken from the exterior money allotment. The copper steeple will also have to be repaired and we are hoping that after we get a bid, the insurance will amend that amount so we can keep our beautiful steeple the way it should be. (Congregation: if anyone has any skills or knows of anyone with any skills that would be willing to donate their time to any of the repairs, we really need to rally around our little church. Please reach out to a council member if you know anyone one or could be of assistance.)

The council agreed that we have to do the remodel/repairs in two phases. Phase 1: secure the church and make it safe for the members and visitors! Phase 1 will include the roof and getting the windows ordered. We are going to work with the same company that helped us through the last storm in 2019 and Sam is working with him to get the estimates back as soon as possible. The interior part of phase 1 will be to get the sheetrock removed from the 2 rooms downstairs (old council room and the storage room under the stairs, as well as the stair well.) and the carpet pulled and removed from the large dining area as well as a flood cut to the walls. Phase 2 will be as money allows and time allows and will include replacing the broken windows and fixing the metal on the steeple as well as re-doing all of the sheetrock downstairs and deciding what we can do with the foundation and what we may find when the foundation is visible. The council has worries that the foundation may have damage but we won't know that until the interior walls are removed. The Stronghold Foundation repair looked the visible foundation said that from their vantage point, the concrete does not show signs of damage and gave Sam several reasons for their hypothesis. We also know that we have to find a solution to the water issue. We are going to attempt to get bids to see what can be done to get a bigger sump pump and/or work on some outside preventive care that will keep the water from seeping in during these large water storms. As it stood during the council meeting, the council voted to approve the bid that ServePro provided of approx. \$22K for the interior work listed in Phase 1 above and to work with the previous contractor to get the roof repaired as soon as possible.

On a very positive note – King of Glory church in Billings donated a check for \$2K and told us to use it towards the church damage. That same church told us that they also provide an option for some grant money and asked ELC to write a grant application detailing the damages and what the church would use the money for. Abbey & Josh will write that letter and return it to them for hopeful approval. For those that don't know, Ben Quanbeck and his wife are the pastors at that church and the Quanbeck family have been members of this church for several years. Ben grew up in our church and he is also the incoming Bishop for our Montana/Wyoming Synod. We have also received a few donations from private individuals with a message to use the money donation towards the restoration. (Thank you cards will be sent out by Carol.)

To keep the finances separate, council voted to also open a new checking account to be used for the restoration process separate from the main account and separate from the building account.

A special meeting will follow church service on 8/17. Sam will present what she knows and answer any questions she can on all of the damage and the insurance updates.

Building committee headed by Abbey will be asked to gather and start working on bids for all of the replacement items downstairs. We will lose the shelving in the storage room downstairs, we will have to re-sheetrock the basement office/storage/stair area, we will have to remove and replace a majority of the kitchen cupboards, and we will have to find a solution to the large carpet area in the dining area. We will also have to attempt to find a company willing to come and bid the water issue previously discussed. If you would like to be on this committee, please reach out to Abbey Emmons.

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE



Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

SEPTEMBER

Pen to paper.
Paper to pen.
The end of the month.
So here I go again!

No longer summer.
Too soon to call fall.
It's almost as if,
I don't know you at all.

Too nice to call winter,
Surely not spring.
Is it all in my mind,
or just a calendar thing?

We take your first Monday off.
Kind of a tribute they say.
Been working too much,
so, enjoy Labor Day!

Patriot Day is up next.
Pray for those that we lost.
Evil wanted our attention.
No matter the cost.

Old Glory should fly
on the porch all month long.

Old Glory should fly
On the porch all month long.
A symbol we will fight
And stand up against wrong.

You probably wonder.
Has T.C. lost his head?
A poet he is not,
From the words that were read.

Welcome September
And all that she brings.
I'm sure that this winter,
I'll think crazier things.

Your Faithful Friend,
T.C. "Longfellow" Mouse
In residence at Emmanuel

We have a mission . . .

Emmanuel Lutheran is
a welcoming church in a rural community
by God
to joyful worship
caring relationships and
loving service.

We have a vision . . .



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
JOYFUL + CARING + LOVING