

# EMMANUEL LUTHERN CHURCH

## NOVEMBER 2025



*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."*

*and remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:19-20*

I've spent the last few weeks reminiscing about all of the things that God has been up to in our time together, and I've found myself thinking a lot about what it means to be the church. Not just to go to church or keep the doors open, but to live as the body of Christ in the world, sharing God's love in ways that heal, build, and bring life wherever it's needed most.

When Jesus sent his disciples out into the world, he gave them his Spirit and sent them together. They went with what they already had, the stories he told, the love he showed, and the Spirit that bound them to one another. God's Spirit gathered them and gave them to one another, and that gathering became the beginning of the church. A living body formed by grace, sustained by love, and sent to carry Christ's light into the world.

You are that church. You are the ones God has called and equipped for this time and this place. The same Spirit that moved through those first disciples is moving through you now, guiding, strengthening, and sending you into the world. You already have everything you need. The gifts, the compassion, the creativity, and the faithfulness are already here, alive in this community. The Spirit of God is not waiting for something new to begin. The Spirit is already leading you toward the work that is yours to do.

I have seen that Spirit at work among you. I have seen it in the way you show up for one another, in the meals you've shared, in the care you've given, in the ways you have served this town and beyond. I've seen it in laughter and in prayer, in generosity and in courage, in the ways you have made space for others to belong. Those things are not small. They are the heartbeat of this church, the living expression of God's love in this place.

And now, the work continues. The Spirit is still moving, leading you into new moments of grace, new opportunities to love, new ways to bring light into a world that needs it. You don't have to wait for

something to begin again or for someone new to arrive. You are already the body of Christ, alive and at work right here.

Jesus' final words to his followers were not about waiting, but about going. About stepping into the world, trusting that God would lead them to the places where love was most needed. That same calling rests with you. The Spirit is ahead of you, drawing you forward into the work of love, justice, and compassion.

So keep going. Keep gathering. Keep following where God's Spirit leads, even when the next step feels uncertain. Trust that the God who has been faithful to this church will remain faithful still.

Thank you for the ways you have lived this calling already. Thank you for the laughter, the prayers, the hope you have shared, and the ways you have shown Christ's love in this community. The Spirit has done beautiful work through you, and I have no doubt that God will continue to do even more. Thank you for letting me be a part of your ministry.

May you go with confidence, knowing that the one who calls you is faithful. And may God's Spirit keep leading you to love boldly, to serve freely, and to walk always in grace.

God Bless,

Pastor Josh Wyman



ELCW – November 2025 newsletter

Greetings, Friends and Neighbors,

A special big thank you to all the people who worked on the Church Garden this year. It was beautifully done and a blessing to so many people. Now it is time to think about the holidays coming up, and our customary Thanksgiving Baskets for those families in need. This is a joint project with Emmanuel Church and the Shepherd Lions Club to provide the food baskets. There is a sign-up sheet in the food pantry for community families needing a basket. Items to be collected for the baskets include gravy mixes, canned green beans, canned cranberries, instant potatoes, stuffing, carrots, pickles, and cans of condensed cream of chicken, onion, or mushroom soups, and cool whip for the pies. We will also need pies to be baked ahead of time and stored in the freezer at the church. The Shepherd Lions' Club will purchase frozen turkeys. Generally, there are 15 to 20 baskets needed. We will have a list of items needed on a sheet at the back of the church, so please sign up if you can provide some of the different items. Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, will be the last day to donate items at church. The baskets will be put together and picked up on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Community Center, as the church basement is not available at this time.

If you can help, please contact us by signing up at the church, and we will help to make this Thanksgiving Holiday a real blessing for so many people.

Gratefully,

Dawn Petty, ELCW President.

10/14/25

## Shepherd Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

Present: Pastor Josh, Sam Murnion, Devin (via speaker phone), Jill, Carol, Lindsey, Jack, Dawn, Jeanne, and Abbey

Called to order at 7PM

Agenda presented by Sam. Pastor Josh led devotion with Phillipians Chapter 1, 3-6.

### **Standing reports:**

Secretary Report – with the amendment emailed last month from Kristianne, report was approved.  
(Jill/Carol)

Treasurer Report – Spoke about splitting out what is coming in for the building fund/insurance and we had previously talked about starting another account just for the new issues and damage. Lindsey advised that the money is already in the current building fund and that it was being kept separate. Part of the issue with the propane usage that we talked about in the last meeting was a cracked hose found on the propane connection coupler. We leaked a lot of propane and will have to have another fill soon. The fix was made and we will also need to level the tank at some time. Report was approved.  
(Carol/Dawn)

Pastoral Report – Pastor Josh and his family have accepted a new call to Wisconsin. He explained things to the board with a heartfelt message. His last service at our church will be 11/9 but the official last date will be Friday 11/14. Announcement will be made in church 10/19. Call committee will be formed to assist with the transition. Jill and Jeanne will be on that call committee and start working to fill the church responsibilities such as confirmation and the substitute pastors. The council is heartbroken but excited for them to get back closer to their families. Pastor Josh was excited and although this will leave a hole in our congregation, we are excited for him and his family! This move is God's plan for them!

Youth Committee – Morning youth Bible study, adult Bible study, and confirmation will continue and we will work hard as a council to fill in where we can. Confirmation will be the obvious priority but the council, with Pastor Josh's lead, will find a way to keep that going.

Music Committee – No updates

### **Old business:**

Storm/insurance update: We received a payment of \$104K. Latest update will be \$158K with the adjustments. They are not covering the steeple metal because we did not have proof of replacement from the work done in 2019. The contractor estimated the steeple replacement at \$32K. Some of the back and forth with the current insurance company is the quality vs. insurance amounts they are willing to pay. The 158K will cover the siding, roof, windows, and the gutters. The contractor's bid is \$180K which shorts us approx. \$15K. A tough discussion started about maybe starting all over with a new building. Jill made a motion to expand the building committee to get three different options to get some basic sketches/costs to compare to what we have now and as what we can do to move forward. 1 - Fix the building and restore what we have. 2 - Complete minimum fixes with a secondary fellowship

building. 3 - Build a completely separate and new building to incorporate both the sanctuary and the fellowship. (Jill/Jack) Sam will work with the insurance angle to also bid each of the above 3 options with an insurance cost for each of them. The insurance is a big issue with the old building! We are very concerned that the insurance that will not carry us again with the two claims in 2019 and 2025. Abbey will work up a basic sketch/plan for the 3 different options and then present it to Sam to see if she can then work the insurance angle on all three options. Once those bids are in place, we will move forward to getting realistic bids and then present the findings to the congregation. We need prayers to be guided to making good decisions for the future of our church.

Coaching: Lindsey suggests that we hire a company to “coach our leaders”. Her opinion is that with all of the changes, we really need to move towards focusing on the future of our church. Group consensus is that we need help to figure out our “future” to include a new pastor, new building/repairs on the existing building, and few new board members. The coaching would provide clarity. Josh Landrum with Harvest Church was one of the coaches that the council reached out to in May. Lindsey made a motion to hire Chad for a 3 month “strategic reset” option to see what he could help us with. The money will come from our savings account. (Lindsey/Jill)

Welcome bags: Jill has handed out two welcome bags in October. Some information about our church, some fun things like homemade Dawn Jelly, prayer squares, among other items are included. Kristianne presented (via Jack) her idea for the “Connect Card”. Kristianne provided a rough draft of her ideas and the council approved. She and Jack will get these printed and they will be distributed in the pews of the church. “Connect Cards” will be a great way for visitors or newer members to get more involved or give them the opportunity to request more information.

Youth/Community Event for Fall/Winter months tabled due to the storm damage.

Spoke about the fall Harvest Dinner. Postpone it? Change it? Re-invent it? Turned over the planning to the ELCW.

#### **New Business:**

Nominating Committee – 2025 Council: President/Sam staying on. VP/Carol leaving and the VP position will be open. Treasurer/Lindsey leaving the position but staying on the council. Secretary/Abbey staying on. Representatives/Jill, Jeanne, Devin, Jack, and Kristianne all staying on. Dawn will also stay on the council but as of now in an undefined roll. TO BE FILLED: Vice President, Treasurer, and one representative.

Maintenance: Door locks/door repair and the above propane tank conversation. All maintenance tabled as of now until we make a decision on the insurance and vote on the changes as a council and/or congregation.

**Next meeting:** Nov 11<sup>th</sup>, 7PM at Dawn’s home

**Closed with the Lord’s Prayer** and meeting adjourned at 8:40

Counters & Treats: 10/19 Carol & Dawn 10/26 Sam & Devin both 11/2 Carol both 11/9 Jill both

## 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. Unfortunately, there isn't the annual Harvest Dinner at the Church this year, since the basement construction work is ongoing. What is a mouse of my standing to do? Perhaps I can hitch a ride to the Church in Huntley to partake in their annual turkey dinner. A meal of this nature is just what I need to get out of the funk caused by Summer leaving me.

I mustn't forget to adjust the clocks when I go to sleep on Saturday the 1st, as Daylight Saving 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.

Veterans Day is on the 11<sup>th</sup>, so remember to fly the flag and give thanks to the Veterans in your life. I'm honored to have served myself. Lots of great memories.

Then on the 27th we celebrate Thanksgiving and the wonderful meal that goes with it. I'm really looking forward to getting the family together and enjoying a big turkey dinner with all the fixings. Turkey, dressing, mashed taters, gravy, green beans, and pumpkin

pie. With all this good eating, I should be up to my usual winter weight in no time. 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 must 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. Maybe go fishing before the water freezes.

See you in Church.

Your faithful friend.

T. C. Mouse

Please join us for worship on Sunday, November 9, for Pastor Josh's last Sunday with Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Come by to wish him well as he prepares for his next chapter.

# Christikon Clips



## November 2025

*Information for our Congregations*

**We celebrated Pastor Heather Wigdah's installation as Executive Director in October. Thank you to all who attended or sent words of encouragement and congratulations.**

**The 2025 Annual Meeting** will be held on **Sunday November 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm**. Join us as we share stories from the summer, look ahead to the 2026 season, and provide exciting updates. This hybrid gathering will take place both **in person at Big Timber Lutheran Church** and **via Zoom**.

Our **2026 summer calendar** is now posted at [christikon.org](http://christikon.org). Registration opens **January 6, 2026**. If you have questions about the upcoming season or want to plan your visit to the mountains, we'd love to hear from you!

### **New for 2026:**

Plans are underway for an **Artist-in-Residence Contemplative Retreat** and a **Music Backpacking Adventure**—unique opportunities to experience creativity, faith, and wilderness together. Stay tuned or reach out through [christikon.org](http://christikon.org) to learn more.

Additional **backpacking and retreat opportunities** will be available through **September 2026**. Family, adult, and specialty groups can choose 2-, 3-, or 4-night adventures during the week or over a long weekend. Retreat options will now include **optional meals in** addition to lodging—perfect for a relaxing fall getaway at camp.

We continue to hold you in prayer as we navigate these uncertain times together. We trust in—and give thanks for—our God who never lets us go, no matter what life brings. May God bless you and yours as we move through fall and into the holiday season and new year with renewed hope and peace.

**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.**

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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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