

EMMANUEL LUTHERN CHURCH

JUNE 2026



Budget Status

as of April 30, 2026

Total Expenses YTD:	\$12,534	<i>15% of 2026 budget</i>
Regular Offering YTD:	\$26,102	

*General liability insurance is in place 2026. Please contact
Samanth Murnin at 970-318-6551 with any budget or
insurance questions.*



Online giving to Emmanuel Lutheran Church is easy and secure. We have partnered with Thrivent Financial and Vanco payments services to allow for online giving.

To give to our church, visit:

secure.myvanco.com/L-ZASP/home



Save the Date

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School

Date: July 7,8,9

Time: 1:30-3:30pm

Location: Shepherd Community Center

More details to come!



June 2026 Newsletter – ELCW report

Everything looks good in the church and around the yard. We have put artificial flowers in the big flowerpots for now, as nights are still getting too cold for plants, but we will be swapping that out for the real flowers as soon as the temperatures get warmer. We took down the white drape on the cross outside, once the Easter season was over. A cleaning lady has been hired to do the weekly cleaning of the sanctuary, office, nursery and restrooms, and she is doing a beautiful job.

There will be Memorial Day Services at the cemetery again, at 10:00 am, sponsored by the Lions Club. The Big Sky Chorus will be there to sing for us. The Emmons are organizing a pancake breakfast in the parking lot starting at 9:00 am prior to the memorial service. The Lions Club will have snacks and coffee afterwards, in the church parking lot. The final Sunday in May will be the church workday. We are looking forward to indoor and outdoor tasks that everyone can help with around the church and garden. The church garden will be needing helpers to clean out the old plants, and put in new ones, so please help whenever you can. If you can contribute to getting the garden started up again, please do so. Once planted, there will be a watering schedule set up so that we will need volunteers to help cover the times.

St John's United will be hosting their summer concerts again, with the first concert starting on June 18 at their Wyndstone campus. The June 25th concert will be at The Crossings in Laurel. The remaining 4 concerts will be at the Billings West End campus. Volunteers are needed to help at the July 9 concert. Emmanuel & the Hardin church are providing volunteer help for that concert. Please see Tari Larson or Jennie Ingram for more information. Volunteers will help from 5:00pm to 8:00 pm at the concert.

Vacation Bible school will be held July 7th, 8th and 9th.

We are so pleased with the Sunday services, which have been held by Maryann Morgenstern and John Goodheart. They always have such a wonderful message for us. Blessings to them, and we look forward to each Sunday.

Sincerely,

Dawn Petty, ELCW President

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting

5/6/26 Called to order at 6:35 by President Sam Murnin

Mission: Emmanuel Lutheran is a welcoming church in a rural community, called by God to Joyful Worship, Caring Relationships, and Loving Service.

Opening devotion led by Dawn Petty. Vision: We will follow God's plan for us to grow in faith, family, and community. In attendance: President Sam Murnin, Dawn, Linda H, Jack, Kristianne, Rob, and Abbey.

Standing reports: Secretary report – no discussion. Treasure report – Linda O was not feeling well so she forwarded us the spreadsheet to talk about. Our giving number for the quarter is *down \$18K* from last year. We will be reviewing the reports. Insurance was agreed on at \$615 for the year until we start building and have to add a builder's policy. This is liability only insurance with Farmers Insurance but it is confirmed that we have insurance. MT Synod is still something that we, as a congregation voted to donate to this year during budget conversation at the Annual Meeting. We will postpone and table this.

Joyful worship – typed and printed and added to a separate entry and presented by Jill.

Question asked by a congregation member about paying the bands a bit more than a single pianist. Pastors are lined out but we are missing just a few Sundays. Jill is reaching out to our other Lay pastors. Musicians are a focus as well for this committee. Jill made a motion to spend money on the youth – requested to spend up to \$200. (Jill/Rob) Caring Relations Committee – conversation-no report. Loving Service Committee – presented by Rob. Bell has been fixed. A congregation member suggested having a breakfast before church as a welcome idea to church maybe in the month of June. Carol Kramer will be asked to do two thank you letters. Dawn brought up doing a Memorial Service possibly with the Lion's Club. Rob will attempt to organize this on Monday May 25th at 10:00 in our cemetery by the flag pole.

Old business: Building Committee updates discussed, typed, and added to a separate entry.

Giving Goal: Sam would like to see an updated money update added to the newsletter.

Discussion about finances vs income. Vanco is one that item that could be spoken about as well for the simplicity of giving and how it allows the council to budget better. Newsletter/Office Role: spoke of the role of the office assistant, is there something that we could do to help eliminate some of the committee roles, Kristianne suggested moving the office assistant work to roles on the council and moving the group to cohesively document and create the office roles. Committee to be created to provide a job description for the office assistant. Abbey, Jill, and Sam will compile this job description prior to the next meeting. Church Workday: On the list for the workday are to clean the toys in the nursery, clean floor registers, work on the garden,

organize the breezeway behind the pulpit, organize the garage, and other small tasks. Needs: garbage sacks, 10 totes, and snacks. Motion made to purchase those items. (Rob/Jill)

New Business: Record Keeping – Kristianne spoke about creating a ledger. This would provide many facets such as maintenance records to baptismal records. She spoke to a Synod representative about what they can help with. Sam and Jill recommended that we reach out to the previous council to see if we can track down those records. Kristianne has volunteered to chair a committee to organize our records. Vacation Bible School – July 7-9 from 1-3pm. Sam spoke to 3 youth in our church and the three agreed to completely run our VBS this year (Hailey, Charlie, and Tanner). Tanner was going to reach out to Josh to find last years program that was already purchased. Ideas where to have VBS, would it be at the church and just outside, maybe the community center, maybe rent a large party tent. Sam will check on availability for the community center and Tanner will reach out to Josh to see if he will send us the program from last year. Cleaning: Linda Oberg found a cleaning person that offered to clean the church for \$50/cleaning. Sam will arrange a meeting with them and Dawn and Tari to make sure that she is prepared for the job. Motion made to have the three mentioned to meet and if agreed on, agree to pay her that proposed amount. (Rob/Linda H) Adult Bible Study – tabled but Abbey will research what others use.

Next council meeting will be June 10th, 6:30 at Dawn's home. All are welcome.

Motion to adjourn the meeting and closed with the Lord's Prayer at 9:01 (Jack/Jill)

Caring Relationship Committee minutes

The committee did not meet so there are no updated minutes.

Loving Service Committee Report

Presented by Rob Emmons. We are still looking for additional congregation members to be a part of this committee. Please reach out to Rob or anyone on the council. The Loving Service Committee is focused on what we, as a church, can do to invite others to our place of worship as well as what we can do to serve the public. It was decided that we will have a pancake breakfast to precede the Memorial Day Service that the Lion's Club is doing on May 25th in our cemetery. The service is at 10 AM and breakfast will be served at 9 AM. The ELCW will assist with some of the costs and provide refreshments. Rob, Abbey, Randy, and Laura will cook and serve the breakfast. There will be a free-will offering.

Joyful Worship Committee Report – May 6th Council Meeting

Recent focus has been to fill remaining open worships leaders. Have contacted the Synod Sta. and St. Johns sta. Currently 3 open Sundays remain and Jill will reach out to those on the Synod supply list.

Pastor Maryann continues to prepare our liturgy. Laura Vanberg continues to do a wonderful job facilitating music for worship. Hailey Homan has also created a “playlist” when we need canned music. Working to recruit more musicians. Thank you to Tanner Emmons for faithfully keeping up with the Power Point.

Pastor Maryann has continued to provide home visits. The communion kits are being used.

Two visitor gift bags were handed out in April. Additional donations to these bags are appreciated – contact Jill.

May schedule is as follows

- Youth Sunday – 1st Sunday
- Traditional services – 2nd and 3rd Sundays (we’re always open to ideas!)
- Abbreviated service + potluck – 4th Sunday and BLUEGRASS!!
- Service Sunday – 5th Sunday (Community Food Pantry and Church workday)

Future Service Sundays could also support the Shepherd School and Seniors. Please let us know if you have ideas! I have also received ideas for additional themed Sundays.

Feedback on removing 1 and/or 2 pews from the back West side of the church?

Feedback on getting bible study supplies for youth and adults? Do we have the funds for this (\$200)?

Building Committee update

Abbey will be meeting with the contractors now that she is retired and will get a true building layout created. We will be moving to work with Buckley Reynolds as he is willing to give our church a very nice bid for the sewer/septic system. Carl Openshaw (Arrow Septic) has been great to work with and he will have a bill that will need to be paid for the septic work he has already completed. Cost was near \$400 and would include the hole that was dug to monitor the water levels. Jill was able to drive and see, in person, Messiah Lutheran in Red Lodge, and she was excited. They let her inside to see the building and the interior. This Lutheran Church is the one that Buckley and his partner built and we are hoping to morph our plans to be similar to the way this one was built. The council spoke of taking a road trip to also be able to see Messiah in person. Date to be decided later. Abbey does not have a true bid from Buckley but will ask that he formulates a bid so that we can vote on this later. His verbal bid was about half of what Arrow Septic gave us.

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE



Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

June is here and not much rain in sight. Sprinklers are already in overdrive trying to keep the lawn green. Even with the lack of moisture, I've been busy scouting about, harvesting asparagus and searching for mushrooms. During my rounds I noticed that the Church garden is really taking shape again. It sure is fun to see the colorful tires and creativity that the youth put into the garden the last couple years. I like to sit on the edge of the orange tire and watch the sunset, taking in the peace and quiet of the area.

On the 14th we celebrate Flag Day, so be sure to display Old Glory proudly from your front porch. Sure was good weather for the Memorial Day service this year and an abundance of people showed up. Old Glory had a lot of attention that morning.

On the 15th my better half and I celebrate 35 years of marital bliss. I can't believe that we have put up with each other for so long! Must be love. Communication is the key to our success.

On the 21st, we celebrate Father's Day, so I hope you get to spend some quality time with Dad, doing Dad type stuff. Fishing comes to mind, as long as the rivers have gone down enough to safely navigate. Of course we also have to fire up the grill again too. I love to grill everything and anything, as long as it doesn't fall through the grates. I think my love of grilling is directly proportional to my hate of washing dishes. I figure if I can grill it, then there is one less pan to wash up after dinner. Happy Father's Day to all the Dads out there.

Summer officially begins on the 21st and I wonder what we will be in for this year. Is it going to heat up quickly and dry everything out or will we stay on the mild side. I'm hoping for Goldilocks weather. Not too hot and not too cold, just right. The kids are out of school and will quickly get bored, so I feel it is up to me to keep them entertained. I have to plan some great adventures. Day trips, weekend trips, little excursions exploring all of the sites that our great state has to offer. Of course in between these outings, I still need to work on the honey do list. No rest for the wicked, as they say.

I hope you too plan some great adventures and create some memories. Happy June everybody. Well, that is it for now. So much to do and so little time. I better run and get something done.

See you in Church.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T.C. Mouse

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
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caring relationships and
loving service.

We have a vision . . .



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JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING