

The EMPHASIS

a Monthly Newsletter from Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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Volume 8, Issue 7, July 2018



Stay Tuned for Mission 100!

2018 marks the 50th year of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Your Stewardship Mission Group together with other active members is planning a year-long celebration to mark our first FIFTY years and, more importantly, look forward to our NEXT 50 years of mission and ministry.

**MISSION 100 WILL
KICK OFF THIS FALL
SO GET READY!**

President's Message

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The rhythms of the year are a blessing. Summer brings hard work and labor for our farmers and grower members as they tend to and begin harvest of God's bounty. July brings the depths of a slowdown for academic members and many in our community. We are deep in God's rhythms for our lives. PRAISE BE TO GOD!

As I write this, Vacation Bible School is in full swing serving over 100 youth from our Church, our pre-school, and our community. Please thank Deb Marsh, Janet Williams, and all the folks who worked to make this such a success. We give special thanks for our wonderful Lutherhaven counselors Kelsey, Bryan, Kate, Andrew, and Paige. The costs for VBS have been covered by a generous anonymous gift – so more thanks to God!

The work of God's ministry at Emmanuel goes on. Council continues to focus on how we can reinvigorate our Mission Groups and get more young families and youth involved. We will be working on a policy to require child-care at all Church meetings and functions where childcare is needed, to allow parents to participate. We will provide opportunities for our Middle School and older youth to be trained to take care of little ones, and earn a little extra money by being the childcare providers. So with the new school year in the fall we hope that more opportunities can be made available for serving God's mission.

Our regular giving continues to lag expenses a bit but mostly because of one time needs, like a new lawn mower. Stewardship has organized a Mission 100 Group to help us celebrate our first fifty years in our building – and more importantly, look forward to our next fifty years of ministry in this place. Stewardship is also planning our Fall stewardship campaign as well. Finally Council is considering possibilities for some supplemental income from possible afternoon day camp activities for our church and pre-school families.

(Cont. on pg. 9)

Welcome to Emmanuel!

Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Preschool is located at:
1036 W A St., Moscow, ID 83843

Church:

Phone: 208.882.3915
Fax: 208.882.3917
emmanuelmoscowid@gmail.com
www.emmanuelmoscow.org

Preschool:

Phone: 208.882.1463
Fax: 208.882.3917
emmanuel Lutheran preschool@gmail.com
www.emmanuelmoscow.org/preschool/



Our Staff:

Dave Daugs, Pastor

509.431.2988 (call or text)
revkddaugs@gmail.com
Office Hours: By appointment.

CindyMarie Polley

Church Administrator

Church Office: 208.882.3915
Personal Cell: 509.366.0548 (call or text)
emmanuelmoscowid@gmail.com

Summer Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 7AM - 1PM

Lisa Allen, Youth Director

208.882.3915 or 509.847.4302
emmanuel.luthyouth@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Visit our google calendar at
<http://www.emmanuelmoscow.org/calendar/index.html>... scroll down to the ELC Youth calendar listed to see all youth information.

Janet McIntosh,

Music Director/Organist

208.882.3915 or 208.521.5002
mcintosh83843@gmail.com

Office Hours: By appointment.

Nikki Cox, Preschool Director

208.882.1463 or 208.310.6106
emmanuel Lutheran preschool@gmail.com

Summer Office Hours:

Wednesday, 10 AM - 1 PM

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**Submissions to the August 2018 issue
of the Emmanuel Emphasis
are due in the Church Office
Noon, Monday, July 23 , 2018**



July 2018 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Hymn Sing! 9:30am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship (Hall)	2 <i>Pastor Off</i>	3	4 Independence Day Church Office Closed	5	6	7
<i>CindyMarie Out of the Office</i>						
8 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Hymn Sing! 9:30am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship (Hall)	9 <i>Pastor Off</i>	10	11 6:00am Weekly Publication Deadline 9:00am ELCW Piecemakers (Hall) 10:00am Preschool Director Office Hours	12	13 <i>CindyMarie Out of the Office</i>	14 <i>Pastor Daugs on Vacation 7/14-7/24</i>
15 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Guest Speaker: Kurt Queller 9:15am Hymn Sing! 9:30am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship (Hall)	16	17	18 6:00am Weekly Publication Deadline 10:00am Preschool Director Office Hours	19	20 <i>CindyMarie Out of the Office</i>	21
<i>Pastor Daugs on Vacation 7/14-7/24</i>						
22 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Guest Speaker: Rob Ely 9:15am Hymn Sing! 9:30am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship (Hall)	23 Deadline for the August Emphasis	24	25 6:00am Weekly Publication Deadline 9:00am ELCW Piecemakers (Hall) 10:00am Preschool Director Office Hours	26	27 <i>CindyMarie Out of the Office</i>	28
<i>Pastor Daugs on Vacation 7/14-7/24</i>						
29 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Hymn Sing! 9:30am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship (Hall)	30 <i>Pastor Off</i>	31	Notes: <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>			



July 2018 Servant Schedule

<u>Serving on:</u>	July 1, 2018	July 8, 2018	July 15, 2018	July 22, 2018	July 29, 2018
<u>Ministers:</u>	The Congregation	The Congregation	The Congregation	The Congregation	The Congregation
<u>Presiding:</u>	Pastor Daugs	Pastor Daugs	Guest: Kurt Queller	Guest: Rob Ely	Pastor Daugs
<u>Dir. Of Music/Organist:</u>	Janet McIntosh	Janet McIntosh	Janet McIntosh	TBD	Janet McIntosh
<u>Altar Guild / Bread:</u>	Deb Dumroese	Deb Dumroese	NA	NA	Deb Dumroese
<u>Acolyte:</u>	June Kirchmeier	June Kirchmeier	Jake Kirchmeier	Jack Baker	Luke Baker
<u>Altar Flowers:</u>	Deb Dumroese	Nancy Ruth Peterson	Kathy Henson	SERVANT NEEDED	SERVANT NEEDED
<u>Assisting Minister:</u>	Paul Collins	Ben Beard	SERVANT NEEDED	SERVANT NEEDED	SERVANT NEEDED
<u>Communion Assistant:</u>	Noell Swearingen	Paul Collins	NA	NA	Deb Dumroese
<u>Communion Assistant:</u>	SERVANT NEEDED	Anne Peterson	NA	NA	Kas Dumroese
<u>Counter:</u>	Deb Dumroese	Kas Dumroese	SERVANT NEEDED	Carolyn Todd	SERVANT NEEDED
<u>Counter:</u>	Kathy Henson	Anne Peterson	SERVANT NEEDED	Julie Spangler	SERVANT NEEDED
<u>Fellowship:</u>	SERVANT NEEDED	Bob & Sue Ritter	Mark S & Marijka H	Gwen Sullivan	Carolyn Todd
<u>Fellowship:</u>	Garth & Nancy Sasser	Tara & Tim Roberts	Julie Spangler	Liz & Tom Brandt	Harry & Sharon Wells
<u>Fellowship:</u>	Nancy Ruth Peterson	Kevin & Anne Peterson	Debbie Stone	Noell Swearingen	Leah Wendt
<u>Fellowship:</u>	Marge Remington	Carmen Savage	Janet & Mandy Strey	Dean & Phyllis Vettrus	Craig & Lisa Allen
<u>Greeter:</u>	Noell Swearingen	Nancy Ruth Peterson	Paul Collins	SERVANT NEEDED	SERVANT NEEDED
<u>J.A.M. Leader:</u>	Lisa Bender	Deb Marsh	Chie Baker	Carolyn Todd	Tara Roberts
<u>J.A.M. Assistant:</u>	Gretchen Isakson	Janet Williams	Deb Wyatt	Julie Spangler	Robbie Giles
<u>Quiet Room Attendant:</u>	Janet McIntosh	Barb Kirchmeier	Chie Baker	SERVANT NEEDED	SERVANT NEEDED
<u>Reader:</u>	Kas Dumroese	Deb Dumroese	SERVANT NEEDED	Paul Collins	Kris Daugs
<u>Usher:</u>	Vern Kinnison	Vern Kinnison	Vern Kinnison	Vern Kinnison	Vern Kinnison
<u>Usher:</u>	Chris Watts	Chris Watts	SERVANT NEEDED	SERVANT NEEDED	Tim Roberts
<u>Usher:</u>	Walter Hesford	Kevin Peterson	SERVANT NEEDED	SERVANT NEEDED	SERVANT NEEDED
<u>Usher:</u>	SERVANT NEEDED	SERVANT NEEDED	SERVANT NEEDED	SERVANT NEEDED	SERVANT NEEDED
<u>Usher:</u>	SERVANT NEEDED	SERVANT NEEDED	SERVANT NEEDED	SERVANT NEEDED	SERVANT NEEDED

Thank you for your service!



LOOK ing ahead... ...Upcoming Readings!

July 1, 2018

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: *The Time of Trial.
Where is God?*

Readings: Lamentation 3:22-33;
Psalm 130; Mark 5:21-43

July 8, 2018

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: *What's Worship Got?*

Readings: Ezekiel 2:1-5;
Psalm 123; Mark 6:1-13

July 15, 2018

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Speaker Kurt Queller

Readings: Amos 7:7-15;
Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14;
Mark 6:14-29

July 22, 2018

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Speaker: Rob Ely

Readings: Jeremiah 23:1-6;
Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22;
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 29, 2018

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: 2 Kings 4:42-44;
Psalm 145:10-18;
Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21



Ed Opps

i.e. Christian Education Opportunities



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL is on break for the summer. Look for information in the September *Emphasis* for new topics and start date!



J.A.M. - JESUS AND ME! for children through age 12. Following the Children's Sermon, J.A.M. leaders will escort the kiddos down to the Fellowship Hall for crafts, games, songs, and a snack. Children will return to the Sanctuary just prior to Holy Communion.



THE "OLD DUDES!" Hey guys! Meet on Wednesdays, 7 AM, at the Moscow Co-op for coffee! On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays after coffee, come to the church for a work day! Questions? Contact **CindyMarie** in the Church Office. 208.882.3915



ELCW PIECEMAKERS QUILTING GROUP Help us quilt! Bring a friend! Have some lunch! We usually meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Join us on July 11 & 25, at 9 AM, to help tie quilts, then share a potluck lunch. Questions? Contact **Gretchen Isakson** (208.882.7289 or gretchenisakson@yahoo.com)

"Whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your might."
Ecclesiastes 9:10



MARY Circle and LEAH Circle is on break through the summer. Look for information in future issues of the *Emphasis* on when these groups will reconvene.



PIA!T! - Praise! Awesome! Thanks!

A huge thank you to
Deb Marsh,
Janet Williams,
Lisa Allen,
the Lutherhaven Staff,
and ALL
the WONDERFUL FOLKS
who helped to make this years
VBS / Day Camp
such a GREAT experience
for the 100+ youth in attendance!
And thanks to all our campers!
What a FUN TIME!

Thanks to **Lisa Allen, Pastor Daug,** and **all our Luth Youth**
who attended camp at Lutherhaven the week of
June 24 - 29! We hope you had
a WONDERFUL TIME!

Thank you to **ELCW** for hosting the memorial luncheon
celebrating the life of Jack Kelly on May 26.

**BAPTIZED IN THE WATERS
OF HOLY BAPTISM ON
SUNDAY, JUNE 10**
Jacob Lawrence
Hartley Kirchmeier
Born: October 15, 2009
Son of **Ben & Barb Kirchmeier**
Sponsors: **Walter Hesford**
& Elinor Michel

Thanks to our **Youth & Family Group** for organizing and hosting
rootbeer floats to honor all our dads during Fellowship Hour on
Father's Day, Sunday, June 17.

Thanks to **all who served** at the Celebration of Life
of Bernie Rathbun on Saturday, June 30



- July 2 - John Walker
- July 4 - Raymond Swearingen
- July 5 - Ed Pierson
- July 6 - Derek Wendt
- July 8 - Kris Daug
- July 10 - Emery Strey
- July 11 - Frank Bennett
- July 12 - Kathy Anderson
- July 13 - Makai Rauch
- July 14 - Kim Campbell
- July 15 - Anna Campbell
- July 20 - Debbie Marsh
Abby Cox
- July 22 - Robbie Giles
Janet Strey
Bradley Carr
- July 25 - Richard Clauss
- July 26 - Julie Spangler
Tom Stroschein
- July 27 - Jolene Halladay
- July 28 - Ethan Kimbrel
- July 30 - Mike Klein



- Meghan & Mike Klein**
07/02/2005
- Ron & CindyMarie Polley**
07/04/1990
- Nikki & Josh Cox**
07/10/2004
- Christoph & Annika Olsson-Hofstetter**
7/12/2003
- Lynn & Judy Mock**
07/20/1974
- Janet & Miranda Strey**
07/20/2013
- Richard & Verla Clauss**
07/23/2012
- Scott & Debi Dockins**
07/27/1996
- Joseph & Carol Walker**
07/28/1973

In Our Thoughts & Prayers...

July 2018

- **The churches' ongoing ministries of care** for the hungry and neglected, especially in Zimbabwe, China, Darfur, Ethiopia.
- **Military service people from our families serving:**
Steven Kwiatkowski, serving in Okinawa Japan; **Captain John M. Swanson**, grandson of Maureen Marten, serving in the Army; **Jaren Doherty Jr.**, Clara Dockter's grandson; serving with the Marines in Afghanistan.
- **Victims of war, oppression, injustice, and cruelty.**
- **People and organizations working for justice and peace.**
- **Any people we have come to see as our enemies.**
- **All those living in fearful homes and circumstances.**
- **All those who are victims of natural disasters.**
- **Students and members abroad.**
- **Our sister churches:** Grace Lutheran Church - New Orleans; Ulanga-Kilombero Synod - Tanzania.
- **Those who've lost loved ones:**
Friends and Family of Bernard Rathbun.
- **Prayers of Thanksgiving:**
Baptism of Jake Kirchmeier.

Those with special needs:

- **Dwaine Barney**, CindyMarie's brother who has suffered a stroke.
- **Logan Klein**, Ben & Katy Beard's grandson, having leg surgery on 5/2/18, with a four week recovery.
- **Dorothy Schnaible.**
- **Debbie Stone's Mom**, and **Jean Langeman** and **Dianna Stidman** who have been taking care of her post surgery.
- **Emery Ewan**, Janet & Chris McIntosh's granddaughter, undergoing diagnostics for seizures.
- **The family of Gwen Sullivan's sister, especially Gwen's nephew.**
- **Garrett**, Debbie Stone's son who has health issues.
- **Shirley Gunther**, prayers to strengthen her heart, heal her legs and foot, and regain her physical strength.

Those, dealing with cancer:

- **Kathy Barney**, CindyMarie's sister, battling leukemia.
- **Janet Williams sister's stepdaughter**, dealing with aggressive breast cancer.
- **Richard Woock**, Jessie Weller's uncle suffering with bone cancer.
- **Baby Thomas Harner**, continuing his fight with leukemia.



Please help us as we update our prayer list. If you wish to make a prayer request or update an existing one, please call the church office at 208.882.3915, or email emmanuelmoscowid@gmail.com. Thank you.



Those who have requested our continued prayers:

- **Douglas Dion**, Edith's son, suffering from congestive heart failure.
- **Randy Dion**, Edith's son, recovering from a paralyzing stroke.
- **Matt Foss**.
- **Andy Fountain**.
- **Sandra Lytle**.
- **Mike Voegtle**, Katy Beard's cousin.
- **Rosanne Manley**.
- **Yolanda Wyatt**.
- **Mike Sprenger**.
- **Devin Revard**, Clara Dockter's grandson.
- **Carol Nelson's Aunt Dorothy**.
- **Clara Dockter**, continued strength.
- **Brien Golis and Family**, cousin of the Streys, whose son is battling a horrible disease.
- **Mark Strey**, Mandy's dad, who is struggling with health issues and alcohol.
- **Sue**, Julia Keleher's mother, in hospice care.
- **Carl Hunt**, suffering from cluster headaches.
- **Doris Edgar**, Julie Spangler's mother, suffering from lewdy body dementia.
- **Sara Kimberling**, continued healing.
- **Bob Bennett**. Prayers for healing.
- **Janet Strey's father**, that he finds Jesus in his life.
- **Grace Lyon**, living at Whitman Senior Care in Pullman.
- **Ken Strassburg**, Kathy Kwiatkowski's brother.
- **The Castro Family**, prayers for families of Mexico. - Janet Strey.
- That **Candi & Brittney** find guidance and prayer from God, from **Janet Strey**.
- **Susen Porter**, Jeanette Peterson's niece and Kevin Peterson's cousin, diagnosed with Primary Progressive Aphasia.
- **Dean Vettrus**.
- **Vivian Fountain**, Carol & Steve Nelson's granddaughter, diagnosed with mild cerebral palsy.
- **Gwen Sullivan's son and his family**.
- For strong community & welcoming in the **Lutheran Campus Ministry**.
- **Patients of the Lugala Hospital** in Tanzania.
- **Residents of Good Samaritan** Nursing and Special Care units.

Notes:



Art in The Gallery!

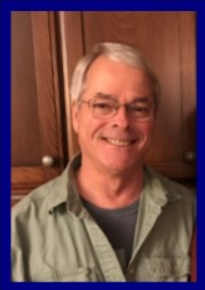


"The Gallery," just outside the sanctuary entrance, features the artistic abilities, the God-given talents, of Emmanuel's members and friends. Currently, "The Gallery" features art by **Cameron Johnston**.



Are you "artsie?"
Would you be interested in being our next "Feature Member Artist?" Please contact Kas Dumroese!
Kas Dumroese!
kas.dumroese@gmail.com
or (208)301-2324.

(Cont. from pg. 1.)



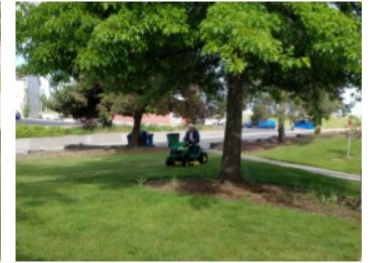
Notwithstanding VBS and Council's efforts, it is a slower time for the Church in July, with members busy in the fields or away enjoying a time of relaxation. Pastor Dave and CindyMarie will be taking well-earned vacation, and our pre-school and youth programs will enjoy some downtime as they gear up for a new year. Council will take July off and will not meet either. Our next meeting will be August 21. So pay close attention to the Calendar to see what is going on, what has been cancelled, and when the Church may be closed.

So you see, even in the hectic/busy/lazy days of summer God's mission and ministry at Emmanuel continues. We continue to figure out how we can best serve our God and God's people through this ministry. We are so richly blessed by the faithful people of Emmanuel that we are able to do what God calls us to do. May your summer time be blessed richly!

Blessings to you all,

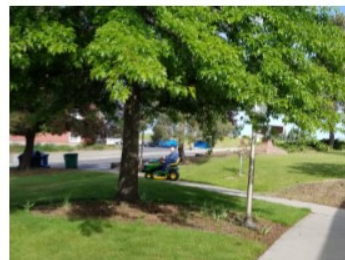
Ben Beard

Ben Beard, President



Emmanuel Has A New Lawn Tractor!

Our lawnmower broke down last month which forced us to purchase a new one. Here is our WONDERFUL Vern Kinnison, taking out our new John Deer lawnmower on it's maiden voyage. Thanks to all who helped with this purchase, and thanks to Vern for keeping our yards in such beautiful shape!



Adopt a Flower Bed

THE WEEDS ARE "GROWING LIKE WEEDS" AGAIN...

...and it's a huge job keeping things looking nice and inviting here at our church home.

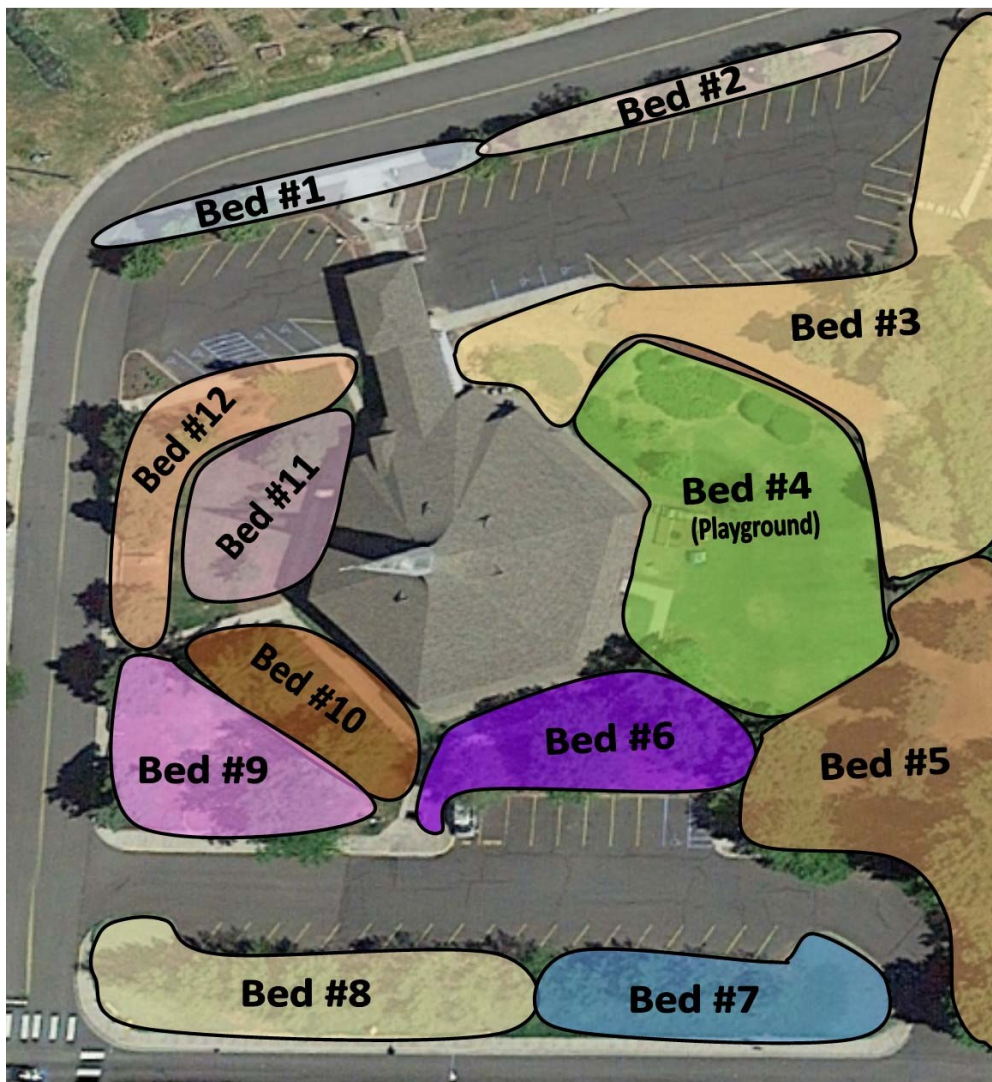
YOU can help? ADOPT A FLOWER BED!

The church grounds have been divided up into 12 areas all ready for a family... group... couple... individual... to adopt!

Let CindyMarie know which area you would like to "call your own."

Call 208-882-3915, email emmanuelmoscowid@gmail.com, stop by the Church Office or just mark pick an empty plot from the Flower Bed Map posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall!

THANK YOU!!!



Thank you so much for helping to care for the beautiful grounds surrounding our church home!

- Please choose a bed from the Adopt a Flower Bed Map;
- Fill in the requested information under your chosen area number;
- As time and weather allow please care for your chosen area by pulling weeds, picking up trash, and generally making it look nice;
- You will be responsible for your area until spring of next year (*or you contact the church office and release your interest in the plot.*) Next spring you can choose to adopt your same area, pick a different plot, or give someone else a turn.



Send A Kid to Camp Lutherhaven!

The Dave Isakson memorial Scholarship Fund was established by Gretchen Isakson and her family in 2013. The purpose of this scholarship fund is to champion sending children to Camp Lutherhaven.

In the past years, that fund has sent numerous children to Camp Lutherhaven.

Lutherhaven offers many Christian based camping opportunities for children, grades one through high school.

If you would like to contribute to this great cause, as a memorial... a gift... in celebration of... please note on your offering, "Dave Isakson Memorial Scholarship Fund." You can put your contribution in the offering plate on Sunday morning, drop it by the Church Office, or mail it to:

Emmanuel Lutheran Church,
1036 W A Street,
Moscow, ID 83843.

Thank you for helping our youth make special relationships, have exciting experiences and make lasting memories!

**Dave Isakson
Scholarship Fund:
Sending Kids
To Camp!**



Emmanuel Stewardship



Treasurer's Report June 2018

June weather is here. Sometimes the temperature is up and sometimes down. These variations in temperature are similar to summer giving at Emmanuel.

Our April giving was about \$6,000 above average, but our May giving was \$4,000 below average. Our May income was \$23,443.11 and our expenses were \$33,659.37, due to 2 unplanned expenditures. Variations in income create a cash flow problem which requires borrowing from our line of credit. So, please keep Emmanuel in mind over the summer so we can meet our regular obligations. Thank you.

Roger Long, Treasurer



Help Our Kids!

Here is a win-win way to help support our Emmanuel Lutheran Preschool and finally make some free space in your garage!

We are accepting donations of your RV, Car, Pickup, or ATV to raise funds so our Emmanuel Preschool kids can experience a bright educational beginning in a loving Christian environment!

If you have:

- an old car taking up space in your driveway,
- or an old truck that is taking up valuable "shop" space,
- or an ATV that is in the way of the new planter box you want to build,
- ANY vehicle you wish to donate all or part of its sale,

let us sell it for you!

Help provide a safe fun place for our kids to learn, play, and grow. Please contact **Steve Fountain, Craig Greenwalt, Pastor Daugs**, or the Church Office (882.3915).

We would love to hear from you!

Why Donate?

- You can avoid the hassles of selling a car
- No need to pay hefty repair bills
- Free up space in your garage
- 100% tax deductible



Donating is Easy!

Pastor's Discretionary Fund



The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is used by the Pastor to assist individuals and families that are in need. Most often it is used to assist people who stop by the church office and request assistance for basic needs. Community organizations may also refer to Pastor, persons who need assistance. Pastor investigates each case by checking in with the Sheriff's Office and or Latah County Social Services both of which share a common data base that can spot repeating requests and persons to keep an eye on. These requests to the Pastor's Discretionary fund may be:



- ◆ They are homeless and need a place to stay for a night or two. *The fund can provide temporary hotel housing for up to 3 nights while other arrangements are being made. Pastor will assist these people in connecting with local resources. Most people may receive housing assistance up to 2 times per year, however circumstances and situations may direct more assistance... especially when there are children involved.*

- ◆ They may need assistance with utilities that are about to be denied. *Pastor calls the utility provider and helps to set up a payment plan that includes an initial payment from the Discretionary Fund.*



- ◆ They are traveling through town and need gasoline or vehicle repairs so they can continue to their destination. *Their personal resources are depleted. Pastor assists them in purchasing fuel or finding a mechanic who can repair their vehicle for a reasonable rate.*

- ◆ People need to see a doctor or need medicine. *Pastor uses the Moscow Clinic to provide these services. They may need a prescription filled and this is done through Rosauers Pharmacy.*



- ◆ People may need food. *They are connected with our local food bank and/or food is given from our ELC kitchen surplus or is purchased by Pastor.*

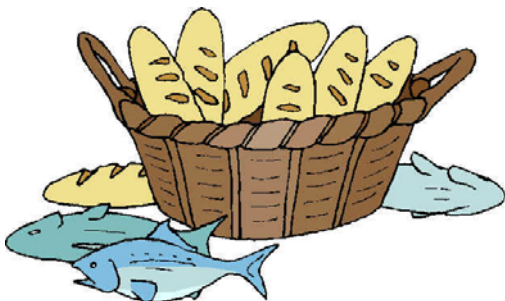
- ◆ Preschool families sometimes need assistance *with, rent, utilities, food, medicine, clothing or tuition.*



ELC has the gracious ministry of "loaves and fishes," assisting people with their most basic needs. This is a very "hands on" ministry through our Pastor.

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is in need of your financial support.

Could your support for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund be above and beyond your usual gracious giving? If you are able to, please give a separate offering ear marked for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.



(Our Church Treasurer and our Pastor administrate the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.)



THE PARISH PAPER

IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

EDITORS: CYNTHIA WOOLEVER AND DANA HORRELL—WWW.THEPARISHPAPER.COM

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INVITING, INFORMING, AND INCLUDING NEWCOMERS

In the 1950s, a new church start pastor challenged every member to invite two newcomers each month. Members enthusiastically committed to such a plan and the pastor's wife, feeling a special call to grow the children's ministry, regularly prayed for new babies to be part of the church's growth. No one was more surprised than she was when half of the young couples in the congregation became pregnant that year! Although this was not an intentional church growth strategy, growing families primarily fueled church growth in the 50s.

Times have changed, and declining birthrates along with cultural shifts are part of shrinking church attendance numbers. These shifts involve the secularization of Sunday, longer work weeks, and two-earner households that reduce opportunities for family time. Additionally, a growing proportion of the population distrusts institutions or do not see the church as particularly relevant to their daily lives. Despite the trends toward secularization, eight out of ten adults in the U.S. believe in God.¹ Therefore, given a changing context, what methods play a role today in how people connect to God and grow in faith through a congregation? An examination of how to invite newcomers, how to inform them, and how to include them requires new reflection.

How to Invite

Not all potential new members or participants come out of the same mold. Transplants that recently moved to the area and participated in a congregation in their former location tend to use a narrow search platform because they know what type of church they would like to attend. The more challenging newcomers to reach are those friends and relatives who live near the congregation but do not currently attend anywhere. And the most difficult population to reach are seekers and those with no church background or history. Still, research clearly demonstrates that at least half to two-thirds of adults find a church through personal invitations.²

Hearing about a congregation from someone you know means the information is more likely to be trusted.

Several methods help encourage members to invite relatives, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. First, the congregation should develop a card, postcard, brochure, or flyer that members can hand or mail to people as they invite them. The printed material should at least include the church location, worship times, and website address. Yvon Prehn, a church communication specialist, warns against getting bogged down in design details because "people are not wowed into the kingdom." Rather all material should offer useful content and be easy to read and understand.³

Special events and holidays offer another opportunity for members to invite people they know. Some congregations designate a particular Sunday as Invite-a-Friend Sunday, Open House Sunday, or Special Recognition Sunday (such as honoring teachers, first responders, or others in the community).⁴ Congregations can create



WE NEED TO UPDATE OUR
CHURCH INFORMATION BROCHURE...
"DESSERT, DISCO, AND DEUTERONOMY"
IS NO LONGER A FELLOWSHIP EVENT!



cards or flyers for these special worship events for members to distribute or mail.

Mass communications—the church website and social media channels, direct mail, yard signs, door hangers, church banners and signs, radio and print ads, and community ads (such as bulletin boards, ads in movie theaters, or sponsoring events)—are additional broad strategies for reaching people. The goal of these efforts is to show the congregation as a place that welcomes newcomers. While no one media strategy produces the desired results in today’s context, some experts argue that there is a growing preference for printed materials. In fact, even though many congregations have invested in digital marketing strategies, a recent study found that direct mail outperforms all digital communications combined by 600%.⁵ Still, an up-to-date and easy to navigate church website (optimized for mobile phones) serves as a primary source of information to which print pieces can direct.

How to Inform

Successful efforts to invite newcomers do not yield new members. Sadly, at most, only three out of ten visitors return for a second visit. Too many visitors catch only a glimpse of what the congregation offers. Prehn claims that two printed pieces are important for informing newcomers: the church bulletin and connection or visitor cards.

The church bulletin. When people attend a worship service, the bulletin is the first picture they see of the congregation. This description of church life should be jargon free, friendly, and clearly written. The order of service should be easy to follow and related to congregational theology and commitments. The bulletin should provide information for linking to the church website, phone numbers, and other contact information (such as church office hours). Visitors are highly likely to take the bulletin home, so consider what information might be most useful to them.

Connection or visitor cards. Visitors typically fill these out during worship services to drop in the offering plates or return to ushers at the end of the service. Too often visitors aren’t given the time during services to complete the card. Worship leaders should give some thought as to when to bring the cards to the attention of visitors (early in the service) and how visitors are welcomed because many visitors do not want to be publicly recognized. In addition to the cards, brochures or visitor packets help visitors learn more about the congregation.⁶

How to Include

Think about a movie theater website. The website makes it easy to see what is showing, at what times, ticket prices, the theatre location, and maps. Participating in a church small group or event should be as easy as going to a movie. A web-supported calendar is essential for including new people as well as current members. Do not make people go through nonessential steps to figure out what is going on and how to participate (such as “call the church office for more information”).

Additionally, most newcomers want to try things out before making a big commitment. Classes or groups that require a multi-week commitment scare away new people because they are not certain they want to make such an extended commitment. A brochure that describes ideal groups and activities that new members can try could be included in the visitor packet. Church consultant Jeff Woods believes encouraging people to engage in common activities builds trust, and helping participants to reflect on those activities builds commitment to a common purpose.⁷

Three Pillars of Evangelism

Three complementary efforts serve the congregation’s ministry goals: inviting, informing, and including new people. Just like a three-pillared tower, without one support, the overall purpose becomes unstable. To invite is to increase the church’s visibility and relevance, to inform is to offer opportunities for connection, and to include means spiritual experiences that promote Christian maturity and growth. Which effort needs more intention and planning in your congregation?

1. “When Americans Say They Believe in God, What Do They Mean?” Pew Research Center, <http://www.pewforum.org/2018/04/25>.

2. Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce, *A Field Guide to U.S. Congregations: Who’s Going Where and Why*, 2nd edition (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2010).

3. Yvon Prehn, *5 Steps of Effective Church Communications and Marketing*, 2nd edition (Ventura, CA: Effective Church Communications, 2016), 54.

4. See Church Effectiveness Nuggets, Vol. 4: “How to Increase Worship Attendance” and Vol. 8: “How to Attract First-Time Worship Visitors,” <https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources>.

5. www.twosidesna.org

6. See Yvon Prehn, *Church Connection Cards*, 2nd edition (Ventura, CA: 2011).

7. C. Jeff Woods, “What Type of Follower Attends Our Church?” *The Parish Paper*, Vol. 22, No. 7: July 2014.



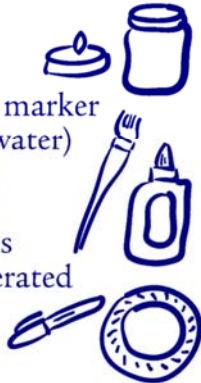
For the KID in ALL OF US !



Summer is the perfect time to gaze at the wonders in the sky. Make this craft as a reminder of God's handiwork — including you!

What you need:

- Glass jar
- Permanent marker
- Glue (and water)
- Paper plate
- Paintbrush
- Star sequins
- Battery-operated tea light



What you do:

1. Around the jar's opening, write in permanent marker: Shine ... like stars in the sky. Philippians 2:15
2. Pour some glue on the plate. Thin with some water.
3. "Paint" the outside of the jar with glue and then sprinkle on some sequins. Let dry.
4. Add the tea light and give your bedroom a starry glow at nighttime.



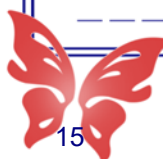
Wonders of creation

Our Creator is in control of the entire universe!

Directions: Beginning with column 1, go down each column until you come to a dot. Write the letter that's found to the left of the dot on the blank below to complete Psalm 147:4, NIV. (Some columns have more than one letter.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
A																													
B																													
C																													
D																													
E																													
F																													
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PSALM 147:4, NIV



Answer: He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Psalm 147:4, NIV

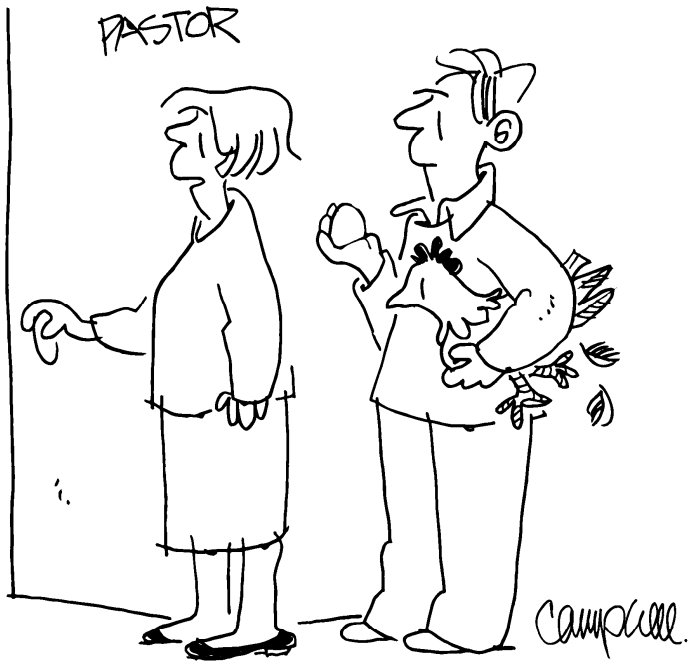
Just for
FUN !!!



Christian Symbol



Lamp — A lamp symbolizes the Word of God: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). It also may represent wisdom, based on Jesus’ parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1-13). Additionally, a lamp may symbolize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit — and life itself.



“Ed here has a question about the origin of life.”

A Prayer for the 4th

Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.

—Peter Marshall, before the U.S. Senate



Puzzle!

Unscramble these biblical words and phrases, which all have something in common. Then write the circled letters in order on the blanks below.

1. eivn _ _
2. illy fo het elavyl
_ _ _ _ _
3. albm fo dgo _ _
4. estmra _ _
5. sseju _ _
6. okrc _ _
7. rdbae fo fiel
_ _ _ _ _
8. htgli fo eth dwlro
_ _
9. voasir _ _
10. dorl _ _
11. ishcr t _ _
12. ehsprdeh
13. teh dowr _ _
14. rncpie fo cepae
_ _

What do these have in common?

VBS / Day Camp June 18-22, 2018

sponsored by Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Lutherhaven Ministries

We started each day at 9 AM
and ended at either 11:30 AM for the younger group
(4 year olds to those entering kindergarten)
or 3 PM for the older group
(those entering 1st grade through 5th grade).





... thanks for a GREAT camp!