

The Echo

March 2021



Prayer

For a long time, prayer was uncomfortable and confusing to me. As a younger person, I didn't understand why we prayed. As I got older, I couldn't figure out *how* people prayed. The first thing I noticed was this: prayer seems to be easy for some people:

- § *They always seemed to know the right words.*
- § *They could bow their heads and close their eyes the whole time.*
- § *They didn't stumble over their words or have long awkward pauses.*
- § *They seemed comfortable praying for long periods of time.*



The second thing I noticed was this: I was certainly not one of those people. But I wanted to be.

So, how do we pray? Here are some helpful tips to make it easier.

- **Practice.** Prayer is like a skill. The more often we pray, the easier the words come. So, practice, practice, practice!
- **Make it a regular part of life.** As before, the more you do it, the easier it becomes.
- **Write it down first.** This works especially for keeping a list of people or events to pray for or if you need to pray in front of a group.
- **Use a guide.** Sometimes our prayer life feels dry or we don't know what to pray for. A guide can help us redirect or get started again. ACTS is one way of guiding prayers that includes many facets of prayer and helps engage the various experiences we have in life.
- ◇ **Adoration:** Give God praise and honor for who he is as Lord over all. Essentially, "I love you, God."
- ◇ **Confession:** Honestly deal with the sin in your prayer life. This is way to say, "I'm sorry, God."
- ◇ **Thanksgiving:** Verbalize what you're grateful for in your life and in the world around you. "Thanks, God."
- ◇ **Supplication:** Pray for the needs of others and yourself. "God, please..."

But, why do we pray? The heart of prayer is a conversation with God. In Exodus 32: 9-14, God is frustrated with His people, the Israelites, who have just decided to abandon God and worship a golden, man-made statue instead. Angry, God is ready to give up on them. Luckily, Moses is praying at that very moment. He prays on behalf of the Israelites and convinces God to change his mind. *Wow.* The prayers of a righteous person really are powerful and effective! (James 5:16). We pray, because God promises to hear us and responds, even if his response isn't when or what we expect.

So, how about you? Is it easy or hard to pray? Has it always been that way? Is your prayer life what you want it to be? My prayer is that you grow closer to God as you learn to communicate well with him.

Peace, Pr. Meggie



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EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS!



GEM Lenten Services:

- Wednesday, March 3 @ Emmanuel
- Wednesday, March 10 @ Galchutt
- Wednesday, March 17 @ Emmanuel
- Wednesday, March 24 @ Galchutt

Lenten services will be at 6:30 PM with soup and sandwich supper served 5:45—6:15 PM.

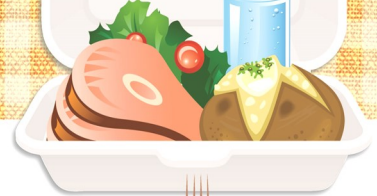
- Maundy Thursday, April 1 @ Emmanuel 6:30 PM
- Good Friday, April 2 @ Galchutt 6:30 PM
- Easter Sunday, normal worship times



Thank you to Ashley Syvertsen for assembling this month's issue of The Echo! Volunteers for future months are needed. Contact Lou Ann Lee if you can help.

Baked Potato & Ham Dinner

- ✓ Baked Potato
- ✓ Toppings: cheese, sour cream & butter
- ✓ Ham
- ✓ Dinner Roll
- ✓ Pasta Salad
- ✓ Bar
- ✓ Water Bottle
- ✓ Cutlery & Napkin



Sunday, March 7, 2021
11:00 am-1:00 pm
At the Richland
Elementary School
Free Will Donation

Please stop in and pick up your to-go meal...to-go meals only, no in-person dining.

Please text or call Kaaryn Weinmann with any questions at 701-640-6020

Sponsored by the Bethany Free Lutheran Youth Group



The Kits (Personal Care and School) ministry

needs a lead person for the spring (Personal Care Kits) and fall (School Kits) for 2021. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact the office or Ellen Rittenhouse at (218) 557-8882 for more details.



Pastor Meggie will be on vacation Friday, March 5 - Friday, March 12. If you have emergency needs, please contact Pastor Jul'e Ballinger at (701) 866-1714. Kim Adams will be leading worship on Sunday, March 7th and Wednesday, March 10th.



The Echo is published monthly for members and friends of Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry.

Editor & Layout —Lou Ann Lee; Copy Editors—Linda Kuruc & Gail Haarstad;

Content Resources—Pastor, Ellen Rittenhouse, Council Secretaries.

If you have articles for possible submission to The Echo, please email them to lalee@rrt.net.

Rituals...

What part do rituals play in your life?


This morning I woke up, brushed my teeth, and ate breakfast, like I do every morning and my day began as it always does. It comforts me to know that God is with me throughout my life, even during these predictable, unthinking moments. Rituals have been a part of my life since birth. While I don't remember them all, I certainly recall many. As soon as an infant enters a family, routines are quickly established around feeding, sleeping, and diapering the young one, communicating love, care and dependability.

As a youth, my family attended church and Sunday school weekly, placing our pennies in the offering. We scrubbed our hands, then prayed before every meal. After eating, we washed and dried dishes, establishing a predictability to every morning and evening. It made me feel a sense of calmness, steadiness, and safety in my young world. As an adult with a family, I followed similar routines to give my children those same feelings.

In my work life, I was reminded more than a few times by clients that I was "predictable," meaning that I had rituals that they came to expect. I suspect that some of you can name some of my rituals, but I won't ask you to do so. Now that I'm much older I find it can be helpful to change my rituals to experience life in new ways. I find that I don't have to be in church to worship on Sunday. I can even "attend" worship virtually any day of the week online, a bit like attending daily chapel in the Dana College gym. God is indeed with us whenever and wherever we are.


What rituals give you that assurance that God is with you and all is right with the world?

Ellen Rittenhouse



We keep the following Prayers & Praises in our prayers:

- ◆ Micah, Vicki, Darline, David K., Alice, and Mary K., who all deal with health issues;
- ◆ The friends and families of Sylvia Myers, Glenn Fixen, Hazel Steussey, and Edward Moen, all who recently passed away; and
- ◆ All those who deal with health issues related to COVID-19 or other illnesses, whether physical or otherwise.



Laud & Honor on Palm Sunday

The Palm Sunday anthem "All Glory Laud and Honor" is one of Christendom's oldest hymns. St. Theodulf of Orleans, who helped reform the church under Charlemagne, wrote the lyrics in the year 820 while imprisoned in France.

The lyrics recount Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event the medieval church reenacted every Palm Sunday. Clergy and townspeople processed from fields through the city gates, behind a Jesus figure riding a donkey. At the gates, children began singing the hymn in Latin — *Gloria, laus et honor* — and onlookers soon chimed in.

City gates may be a thing of the past, as the website Hymnary.org notes, yet we still praise our blessed Redeemer "because we know just what kind of King he was and is — an everlasting King who reigns not just in Jerusalem but over the entire earth. What more could we do but praise him with glory, laud and honor."

All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming, the King and Blessed One.



How are we honoring God with the gifts he has given us? I'm asking you, not as a perfect steward. Quite the contrary!! Like everyone else, there are hundreds of ways I could improve, so that got me thinking and reading.

"Why do we tithe, Raymond L. Johnson¹ of 3D Believers asks us?" I hadn't really considered my motivation for giving but he encourages us to think if our giving is based on a *rule* that I must give to my church, a *routine* that's always been followed or maybe a *ritual* dictated by the church? Whichever it is, God desires our giving to be an act of conscious worship and not something we parade in front of others. Isaiah 1:11-12 notes that God will not honor our gift when it is not given in the right spirit.

Mr. Johnson calls our attention to the fact that the church is God's hands, mouth, and feet in this world – it is the body of Christ. In fact, the local church is "ground zero" for carrying out God's plan to evangelize and reach non-members, while also equipping its members. As we gather at the local church to enjoy fellowship, hear teaching, partake of the Lord's Supper, and to pray and receive support, we also need to give back with our time, talent, and treasure to ensure that God's mission is fulfilled. Most of us can agree that a local church is important and vital as a base of operations. We also agree that there are costs to keeping the lights on and maintaining a staff. However, these facts don't always ensure that every member gives consistently. Things sometimes get in our way.

This should give us pause, especially as we go about searching for a new pastor. Charles Spurgeon² was once asked by the officers of a small country church to recommend a pastor for them. As he reviewed their requirements and salary, he noted the small salary they were offering. He wrote back to them saying, "The only individual I know, who could exist on such a stipend, is the angel Gabriel. He would need neither cash nor clothes; and he could come down from heaven every Sunday morning, and go back at night, so I advise you to invite him."

While we may laugh at this, the salary of pastors and staff often yield lively discussions. While the decision makers may agree that pastors deserve a living wage knowing their duties are physically and emotionally challenging, Johnson rightfully points out that churches are often challenged to find a balance between the budget and their notion of a living wage. God's plan for pastors has always included providing for them. In the Old Testament, Melchizedek ministered to Abram and Abram blessed him by giving him a tenth of his spoils of war. In Luke 10, Jesus sent out the disciples, instructing them not to even take a purse, as their work was urgent.

So we all know that stewardship is about money, but real stewardship is not just about money. In fact, a good steward reaches out and motivates others to join them to fulfill God's plans. In fact, most service to the Lord does not take place inside the church building. It happens out in the world where we do all the things that Scripture commands. Johnson adds that the church is a *body* of believers, uniquely gifted by God to guide, help, challenge, and support the rest of the body.

For believers, each act of service turns into a "wave offering" to the Lord. Don't ever think your contribution of time, talent, or treasure is too small to make a difference. Let your *ripple* become part of the *wave* that meets the needs of many.

If 2020 taught us anything, hopefully it was that we all need each other in order to succeed!



¹Johnson is an accomplished Bible teacher, who writes weekly lessons on the subjects of Stewardship and Money Management for church pastors and members. (<https://3dbeliever.com>)

²Charles Spurgeon was an English Particular Baptist preacher, highly influential among Christians of various denominations, known to many as the "Prince of Preachers".



You may have noticed the quilts displayed on the pews at Emmanuel and wondered why. Since COVID restrictions continue, I decided to display the quilts as we finish them so that all could enjoy them before they are shipped in May. Thanks to several ladies who have sewn tops for us this winter, we will have a good number of quilts to ship in May.

Last year in March, COVID-19 interrupted the production of quilts, personal care kits, and school kits for many months. The recent LWR newsletter reported that in September 2020 the warehouses “didn’t have a single thing to pack” for distribution because “nothing came in and nothing went out for the first time in 27 years.” This past year they’ve only “received about 40% of the normal amount of donations.” The LWR shipping management are concerned that they will not have enough items to meet the 2021 needs. Church groups report on the LWR Facebook page that they have been busy gathering items and completing kits and quilts for the next Ingathering in the hope that they will be able to ship them to the warehouses this spring.

For more information about the work of LWR and what goes into the kit and quilt ministry, the LWR newsletter is posted on each church bulletin board. Please check this out or call Ellen at (218) 557-8882 for more information on how to volunteer to help with the kits and quilts projects.

Ellen Rittenhouse

Thank you to the following for their recent donations:

Galchutt Lutheran Church

- **In memory of Jan Gorder**
Ruth Hagander
- **In memory of Morna Syvertsen**
Ruth Hagander
- **In memory of Sylvia Myers**
Roger & Becky Moe
Sylpha Lee
Jared & Sarah Myers
Roger Jensen
Todd & Nicole Rostad Holdman
Duane Kurtz

Galchutt Lutheran Building Fund

- **In memory of Sylvia Myers**
Robert & Lynette Leake
Daniel & Kendra Dockter
- **In memory of Glenn Fixen**
Lynn & Vicki Syvertsen

St. John’s Cemetery Fund

- **In memory of Paul & Jan Gorder**
Marilyn Baumann
- **In memory of Glenn Fixen**
Duane Kurtz
Mike & Lori Vogeler



Galchutt Lutheran Kitchen Fund

- **In memory of Glenn Fixen**
Doug & Mandi Johnson

Emmanuel General Fund

- Jacqueline Brissey (Thrivent donation)
- **In memory of Audrey Casperson**
Wes & Shirley Berg
- **In memory of Sylvia Myers**
Wes & Shirley Berg
- **In memory of Edward Moen**
Wes & Shirley Berg
- **In memory of Jerry Berg**
Allan & Jesse Berg
Tom & Inis Frankl

Emmanuel Furnace Fund

- **In memory of Jerry Berg**
Kevin Paczkowski

Emmanuel Cemetery

- **In memory of Jerry Berg**
Lucille Egger & LaVella Hansen

Emmanuel Quilting Fund

- Rose Adair (Thrivent donation)



Emmanuel Lutheran Council Highlights

The Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council met on February 16, 2021. In attendance were Sharon Tschakert, Jessica Kappes, Craig Syvertsen, Fred Tol, Donald Hestdalen, Tessa Tschakert, Lesley Hulne, Pastor Meggie and Treasurer Lou Ann Lee. Pastor Meggie led us in devotions and prayer to open the meeting.

Secretary Report: The December 15th and January 31st minutes were read and approved. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Meggie reviewed her visitation routine and the limitations. She is providing Children's Education lessons for families during Lent. We discussed the Lent schedule and rotation, with Ash Wednesday at Emmanuel, along with soup and sandwich. We discussed Easter week and we are open to scheduling Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with what works for Galchutt. We will have Easter Services at the regular 10:30 AM worship time. Pastor Meggie, the Council Presidents, and Treasurers met with the Bishop and Shar from the Synod and discussed the future and role of our churches. Pastor requested March 8-14 off and Kim Adams will fill in, with Pastor Jule on call. Motion made & seconded to approve Pastor Meggie's mileage.

Treasurer's Report: LouAnn presented the financial reports. The expenses on the budget sheet for the salary & administrative expenses will be reduced once the monthly payment is received from Galchutt. Donald made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Craig seconded, motion carried.

Committees were reorganized as follows: Property-Fred, Craig, and Donald; Education-Jessica; Stewardship-Tessa and Lou Ann; Worship-Sharon and Lesley.

Property: The committee has found light fixtures for the entry and will determine what we need to go forward with it. **Worship:** The committee will meet to plan Easter week and beyond.

Old Business: We discussed emerging COVID guidelines in relation to funeral services. We are comfortable with 50-60% occupancy for funerals and agree to serve food, if the family requests.

New Business: The custodial duties list was updated with the frequency of each duty. We will serve a brunch following the Palm Sunday Worship Service. There was discussion on the status of the parsonage and whether it is beneficial for us to keep it or sell it. We will wait to make a decision until after a pastor is hired. Pastor Meggie provided us with a Sample Parish Agreement as a tool for a possible collaboration between Galchutt and Emmanuel. A committee will be formed to move the process along. Craig moved to adjourn the meeting, Tessa seconded the motion and it carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Lesley Hulne

Seeking Committee Members for 150th Celebration



St. John's Church will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2022. As custodians of St. John's, Galchutt Lutheran Church is excited to put together a committee to help plan this celebration.

In addition to committee members, we are also seeking any photos, videos, memorabilia, memories, stories, or other items that would be fun to include in a presentation of this celebration.

Galchutt Lutheran Church has embraced the role of watching over St. John's Church and we are very proud of the history it entails. St. John's plays an important role in Galchutt Lutheran's history and is something Galchutt members cherish. We look forward to planning this event and welcome anyone interested in helping to join us, regardless of your location!!

We hope to have a committee formed by May 2021. If interested in joining this committee or to share other information, please contact Kendra Dockter at 701-640-0127 or by email at docktercows@icloud.com





March 2021



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>Emmanuel Altar Guild</p>  <p>Deb Syvertsen</p>	<p>1 Galchutt Council Mtg @ 6:30 PM</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Lenten service @ Emmanuel 6:30PM</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Pastor Meggie on vacation March 5-12</p>	<p>6 Pastor Meggie on vacation March 5-12</p>
<p>7 (Kim Adams) Galchutt Worship 9AM; SS 9:45AM Emmanuel Worship 10:30AM Bethany Dinner (see page 2)</p>	<p>8 Pastor Meggie on vacation March 5-12</p>	<p>9 Pastor Meggie on vacation March 5-12</p>	<p>10 Lenten service @ Galchutt 6:30PM (Kim Adams) Pastor Meggie on vacation March 5-12</p>	<p>11 Pastor Meggie on vacation March 5-12</p>	<p>12 Pastor Meggie on vacation March 5-12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Galchutt Worship 9AM Emmanuel Worship 10:30AM</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Emmanuel Council Mtg @ 6:30 PM Quilting at Emmanuel 9AM-4PM</p>	<p>17 Lenten service @ Emmanuel 6:30PM</p>	<p>18 Echo articles due today.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Galchutt Worship 9AM; SS 9:45AM Emmanuel Worship 10:30AM</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Lenten service @ Galchutt 6:30PM</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Galchutt Worship 9AM; SS 9:45AM Emmanuel Worship 10:30AM with Palm Sunday brunch after worship</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1 Maundy Thursday service @ Emmanuel 6:30PM</p>	<p>2 Good Friday service @ Galchutt @ 6:30PM</p>	

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Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

This month's issue of *The Echo*

is sponsored by

Susan Blood, Steve Gunness, and Kathy Moen,

In loving memory of

Gordon & Lois Gunness



GOD'S MORNING ROUTINE

Every new day, we wake up to blessings from God.

Directions: Use the clues to fill in the words. Then write the boxed letters in order below to complete Lamentations 3:22-23, NIV.

- Brush these daily _ _ _ _ □
- Do this to your shoes _ □ _
- This rises in the east □ _ _
- Cold breakfast food □ _ _ _ _
- Hot breakfast food ☉ □ _ _ _
- Talk to God □ _ _ _
- Morning meal _ _ □ _ _ □
- Extend your limbs □ _ _ _ _
- Fruit drink _ _ □ _
- Waffle machine _ _ □ □
- Eat these scrambled or fried _ _ _ □



Because of the LORD's great love... □ □ □
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ never fail. They are
new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23, NIV

ECHO SPONSORSHIP FORM

Thank you for supporting The Echo. Sponsorships for October 2021 and forward are available as *of the date of this publication.*

If you are interested in sponsoring a future issue, please fill out the form below and mail your check to:

**Galchutt Church, c/o Kendra Dockter,
16860 70th St SE, Colfax, ND 58018.**

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_____.
_____ \$50 (half month sponsor)
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Answer: teeth, tie, sun, cereal, oatmeal, pray, breakfast, stretch, juice, iron, eggs, his compassions