

# The Echo

August 2019

## The beauty of nature: God's gift to all of us

The Bible tells us that the Earth is the Lord's and all that it contains and that the heavens are telling the glory of God. Nature is a gift from God. When God first created man, He placed us in the Garden. As Spring turns into summer I want to encourage us all to go and enjoy the beauty of nature. There are so many opportunities in this area to enjoy the outdoors.

...

There is something therapeutic about getting outside and communing with God in Nature. For some of us it is more important than for others. But all of us can benefit from slowing down and getting outside and refreshing ourselves with the beauty that God has created. Perhaps one of my favorite names for God is the "Beauty of Holiness."

You see, God created beauty and the human spirit responds to the beauty He created. Whether it is a sunset or sunrise, blooming flowers or trees, a flowing stream or the beautiful expanse of the skies at night, all these things communicate to us the beauty and reality of God.

God made nature but He is separate from it. And though we can learn a lot about God by viewing and enjoying His handiwork there are things we can only learn about God through His Word. All of us were created to be in a relationship with the God who created everything that exists. So my encouragement to you is to get to know the God who created all the beauty we see all around us.

There is a lot I can learn about you and you about me simply by observing one another. But there are things that I could not learn about you or you about me unless we spoke with one another. The same is true with God.

That is why He has given us the Bible, His Word, so we can learn things about Him that we could not learn about Him by just observing all the things that He had created.

So my encouragement to you is to get out and enjoy the beauty of creation. But also pick up a copy of the Word of God and read it so you can better get to know the One who created all this beauty and longs to have a deep, personal and intimate relationship with you. See you outside!

(Written by Cmdr. Jeff Etheridge; Command Chaplain | Marine Corps Base Quantico | June 16, 2016 )



**The theme for September's Echo is "God's Work, Our Hands." Where have you seen an example of God at work through the hands of others? Tell us about it.**



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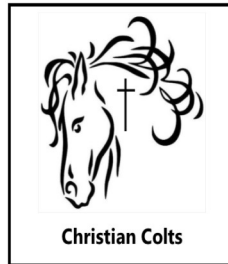
Website: <http://galchuttemmanuel.weebly.com/>

# EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS!

## † Christian Colts

2019-2020

Richland 44 High School - Room: TBA  
WEDNESDAYS 7:30-8:15 AM  
7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grades



Christian Colts

**ALL ARE  
WELCOME!**

Donuts ~ Coffee ~ Juice

Prayer  
Activity  
Bible Study  
Fellowship

### 2019

Sept. 4	Introduction to Christian Colts
Sept. 11	Jesus rode a colt!?!?!? <b>5pm-7pm Christian Colts Kickoff!!!</b> <b>Picnic at Our Savior's in Colfax - gifts for students!</b>
Sept. 18	Abundance
Sept. 25	Faith
Oct. 2	Strength
Oct. 9	Contentment
Oct. 16	Healing
Oct. 23	Courage
Oct. 30	Mercy
Nov. 6	Forgiveness
Nov. 13	Love
Nov. 20	Healing
Nov. 27	Thankful
Dec. 4	Joy
Dec. 11	Prayer
Dec. 18	Christmas Fun!
Dec. 25	No Christian Colts

Fun!

† Led by Pastor Julé Ballinger and Youth Leaders

"Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you."  
~Deuteronomy 31:6

### 2020

Jan. 1	No Christian Colts
Jan. 8	No Christian Colts
Jan. 15	Blessing
Jan. 22	Serving
Jan. 29	Trust
Feb. 5	Healing
Feb. 12	Grace
Feb. 19	No Christian Colts
Feb. 26	Fear
March 4	Unity
March 11	Anger
March 18	No Christian Colts
March 25	Stress
April 1	Hope
April 8	Easter Gift!
April 15	No Christian Colts
April 22	Love
April 29	Temptation
May 6	Sharing Christ
May 13	Last Day of Christian Colts

**Aber Days  
Ecumenical Worship Service  
at Abercrombie Park  
Pavilion  
@ 10:30 AM, followed by  
potluck dinner.  
ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

**"God's work. Our hands"**  
Sunday is September 8, 2019. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA in America - one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ - every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life - flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

## ECHO SPONSORSHIP FORM

Thank you for all the support we have had for the Echo. If you are interested in sponsoring an issue, please fill out the below form. Sponsorships for December 2019 and forward are available. Checks can be sent to *Galchutt Church, c/o Kendra Dockter, 16860 70th St SE, Colfax, ND 58018.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$50 (half month sponsor)

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This Echo is sponsored by: \_\_\_\_\_

(in loving memory) OR (in honor of) \_\_\_\_\_

The Echo is a publication of the Galchutt & Emmanuel churches. If you have an announcement for an event or photos from a baptism, wedding, or other special event regarding a member or former member of our parish, we would love to include the information in an upcoming issue. Also welcome are interesting stories or articles you may be able to provide. Please email info to the Editor at [lalee@rrt.net](mailto:lalee@rrt.net).



Where do you see God or where have you experienced God? Many of us in this part of the country probably think that spring and summer are where we see God at work? After a long winter, beautiful green grass, trees, and gardens, along with the beauty of all the flowers make us feel that God is definitely close to us. To me, just being outside and being able to enjoy the garden and flowers is a most satisfying feeling. When you look at some of the magnificent sunrises and sunsets, do you immediately think God is clearly painting a beautiful picture for you? It is no doubt easier to marvel at the splendor of God's miracles on a beautiful summer day - than during a snowstorm. Maybe you have had the joy of experiencing the birth of a new child or grandchild and looked into that precious little one's eyes and wondered how life could get any better and that, God is most certainly at work. Have you felt God's presence when some stranger steps in to help you in time of crisis or helps you get through some situation you think is impossible?

Conversely, when the weather makes it impossible for farmers to get crops planted or gardens planted to feed your family, do you feel like God has somehow stepped away from your life? When a storm, fire, or tornado go through a neighborhood, do you question what those people have done to make God mad? Have you had a person close to you, maybe someone you loved deeply or a young person or child, leave you or pass away? In situations like that, people often wonder where in the world God is or why he is doing this to their family. Why did God take our loved one away at the age of 4, 14, or 84? It is human nature to question why bad things happen to people if they go to church and appear to believe in God. We aren't alone in having doubts at times.

When Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to Mary and Martha and told them to go tell the disciples, everyone who heard the news was excited. Everyone except Thomas. Thomas said "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." But Jesus didn't give up on Thomas. Jesus confronted Thomas and basically told him that he heard he doubted. Jesus had every right and reason to leave Thomas in his unbelief, however, in his great love for Thomas, and for all of humanity, he merely said, "Do not disbelieve, but believe." We also should know that our doubts or anger in bad times don't drive God away. He is with us always, in good weather or bad weather, in good times or bad times, in our times of sorrow or our times of joy. God is with us wherever we are and we only need rely on his promise found in Matthew 28:20, "[B]ehold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



Go, enjoy the beauty of God's nature and his promise to us. Have a wonderful rest of summer!

*LouAnn Lee*



## We Pray For:

- ◆ The family of Margaret Wold, longtime member of Galchutt Lutheran, who passed away recently;
- ◆ All those who suffer from illness or addiction;
- ◆ Our school administrators and children as they prepare to start another school year; and
- ◆ Our congregations as we pray to find a new pastor.

**Where do you see God?** What are your earliest memories of God? I remember going to Sunday school and learning stories about Jesus and God, spending 2 weeks each summer in Vacation Bible School and daily prayers at mealtime and bedtime. As I grew, those continued but I began to notice there was division around me and that everything was not equal. I observed how much easier our lives were compared to the black kids in Africa we studied in VBS. As my exposure and understanding grew, I had to confront the contradiction that was being posed and my thinking shifted. If I was to believe what I was learning about Jesus and God, I had to broaden my view of God in my life. While I didn't have regular contact with racially different peers, a family immigrated from Germany to our community with children near my age. This helped me better understand what I had heard earlier, that all people are children of God and loved by Him. Later in college, I formed friendships with people of many different backgrounds. I learned that the principle of living with the help and guidance of a Higher Power helped to resolve the divisions I had been seeing.



So now let's begin again and look for the multitude of places we see God. He is all around us every day, hour, minute, in nature, family, friends, work, reading, writing, what we hear and the list can go on and on. I remember a time nearly 70 years ago when a great aunt visited our family and brought a gift for me. I'm sure that I had only seen this aunt a very few times, maybe in part because she was the only member of the extended family who had married a Catholic and moved away from the home community. That gift, which I still have and cherish, was and is symbolic of God's love for His people. While I didn't see that aunt many times after that, the division between us was blurred. *Ellen Rittenhouse*

### Emmanuel Lutheran Council Highlights - July 10, 2019

The Emmanuel Church Council met on July 10, 2019, with the following members present: Kevin Paczkowski, Fred Tol, Jessica Kappes, and Lesley Hulne.

Absent: Deb Syvertsen, Austin Heyen, and Mardee Besette.

Call to Order: President Kevin Paczkowski called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: Kevin read June's report. Lesley motioned to accept the secretary's report; Fred seconded.

Treasurer's Report: LouAnn Lee provided an annual outlook on income and payments going out. Fred motioned to accept the treasurer's report; Lesley seconded.

Education Committee: Jessica reported VBS was held at Galchutt June 25-27. A great 3 days was had by all 38 kids and volunteers. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped during the week to make this a very successful and fun event. Thank you to all who contributed funds to make this event possible.

Worship Committee: NA; Stewardship Committee: NA

Property Committee: Austin will look into why the AC is not functioning properly in the church. Kevin discussed getting a quote to paint the dining room in the parsonage.

Old Business: Pastor Linda requested an official report on the last air testing, Austin will provide.

New Business: Pastor Linda recently contacted Kevin about picking up remaining items from the parsonage and returning garage opener. Pastor Jule of Richland/Our Saviors will be doing a service in the park during Aber Days, August 4th. All are welcome.

Closing: Next council meeting will be **Monday, August 5th at 6 PM**. Jessica motioned to adjourn, Lesley seconded. Members closed with the Lord's Prayer. *Jessica Kappes, Secretary Pro Tem*





## Confirmation 2019-20

On Wednesday, September 25 at 3:30 pm we begin this year's Confirmation! Confirmation begins for grades 7-9. Included are the students of the following churches: Galchutt Lutheran, Emmanuel Lutheran, Our Saviors' Lutheran, and Richland Lutheran. If you have a friend who would also like to join confirmation, they are welcome to join! All are welcome to learn about the abundance of God's grace and love!

We will be using the **Collaborate Lutheran Confirmation curriculum**. Confirmation will be on a 3-year cycle. We will learn Old Testament this year. So, all of you are encouraged to bring your Bibles from home. The evening tentatively will look like this:

**Tentative Nightly Regular Schedule:**

<b>3:30 pm</b>	<b>Eat and clean-up</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Lesson</b>
<b>4:40 pm</b>	<b>Small Groups (Highs and Lows)</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Closing Blessing (font)</b>

We have high expectations for attendance, worship attendance/sermon notes, and participation because we truly desire for your child to grow in their faith. Confirmation is not a graduation from church, but it is just the beginning of their faith journey. Christ walks with them and loves them just as they are and continues throughout their lifetime. Confirmation is practicing their "adult" membership recognizing, we never quit learning. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Julé Ballinger at: [juleballinger@yahoo.com](mailto:juleballinger@yahoo.com) or 701-866-1714. P.S. Each evening we provide a snack for the kids free of charge. If any parents would like to provide the snack for a night or two during the year; please contact Pastor Julé. Thanks!

### *Thank you to the following for their recent donations:*

**St. John's Church:**

*In Memory of Harold Narum*

- ◆ Donavon & Jean Loff

*In Memory of Margaret Wold*

- ◆ Kathy & Kevin Hudson
- ◆ Donavon & Jean Loff
- ◆ Mike & Lori Vogeler
- ◆ Lori & Nelson Minor

**Galchutt Lutheran Church:**

*In Memory of Margaret Wold*

- ◆ Betty Syvertsen
- ◆ Sally Caderet
- ◆ Burton & Kristie Berg
- ◆ Gerald Smedberg
- ◆ Julie Wold
- ◆ Steve & Shelly Fixen
- ◆ Kathleen Leinen

*In Memory of Carol (Leland) Galarneault*

- ◆ Julie Berg



**Galchutt Lutheran Building Fund:**

*In Memory of Margaret Wold*

- ◆ Daniel & Kendra Dockter
- ◆ Brice & Sara Bellmore
- ◆ Paul & Jan Gorder

**Galchutt Lutheran Sunday School:**

*In Memory of Margaret Wold*

- ◆ Lynn & Vicki Syvertsen

**Emmanuel Landscaping Fund:**

*In Memory of Harold Narum*

- ◆ Viola Merchant

*In Memory of Margaret Wold*

- ◆ Viola Merchant

*In Memory of Meri-Joe Christopherson*

- ◆ Viola Merchant

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church:**

Donald Nelson

Robert & Lois Skamfer (Thrivent Donation)

*In Memory of Margaret Wold*

- ◆ Wes & Shirley Berg

# Invisible Mother

*(The following article would have gone well with our May - "Tributes to mother figures" edition but also fits well with "Where do you see God.")*

It all began to make sense, the blank stares, the lack of response, the way one of the kids will walk into the room while I'm on the phone and ask to be taken to the store. Inside I'm thinking, 'Can't you see I'm on the phone?' Obviously not; no one can see if I'm on the phone, or cooking, or sweeping the floor, or even standing on my head in the corner, because no one can see me at all. I'm invisible. The invisible Mom. Some days I am only a pair of hands, nothing more! Can you fix this? Can you tie this? Can you open this? Some days I'm not a pair of hands; I'm not even a human being. I'm a clock to ask, 'What time is it?' I'm a satellite guide to answer, 'What number is the Disney Channel?' I'm a car to order, 'Right around 5:30, please.' Some days I'm a crystal ball; 'Where's my other sock? Where's my phone? What's for dinner?' I was certain that these were the hands that once held books and the eyes that studied history, music and literature -but now, they had disappeared into the peanut butter, never to be seen again. She's going, she's going, she's gone!

One night, a group of us were having dinner, celebrating the return of a friend from England. She had just gotten back from a fabulous trip, and she was going on and on about the hotel she stayed in. I was sitting there, looking around at the others all put together so well. It was hard not to compare and feel sorry for myself. I was feeling pretty pathetic, when she turned to me with a beautifully wrapped package, and said, 'I brought you this.' It was a book on the great cathedrals of Europe. I wasn't exactly sure why she'd given it to me until I read her inscription: 'With admiration for the greatness of what you are building when no one sees.' In the days ahead I would read - no, devour - the book. And I would discover what would become for me, four life-changing truths, after which I could pattern my work:

- No one can say who built the great cathedrals - we have no record of their names.
- These builders gave their whole lives for a work they would never see finished.
- They made great sacrifices and expected no credit.
- The passion of their building was fueled by their faith that the eyes of God saw everything.

A story of legend in the book told of a rich man who came to visit the cathedral while it was being built, and he saw a workman carving a tiny bird on the inside of a beam. He was puzzled and asked the man, "Why are you spending so much time carving that bird into a beam that will be covered by the roof. No one will ever see it." And the workman replied, "Because God sees." I closed the book, feeling the missing piece fall into place. It was almost as if I heard God whispering to me, "I see you. I see the sacrifices you make every day, even when no one around you does. No act of kindness you've done, no sequin you've sewn on, no cupcake you've baked, no Cub Scout meeting, no last minute errand is too small for me to notice and smile over. You are building a great cathedral, but you can't see right now what it will become."

I keep the right perspective when I see myself as a great builder. As one of the people who show up at a job that they will never see finished, to work on something that their name will never be on. The writer of the book went so far as to say that no cathedrals could ever be built in our lifetime because there are so few people willing to sacrifice to that degree. When I really think about it, I don't want my son to tell the friend he's bringing home from college for Thanksgiving, "My Mom gets up at 4 in the morning and bakes homemade pies, and then she hand bastes a turkey for 3 hours and presses all the linens for the table." That would mean I'd built a monument to myself. I just want him to want to come home. And then, if there is anything more to say to his friend, he'd say, "You're gonna love it there..." As mothers, we are building great cathedrals. We cannot be seen if we're doing it right. And one day, it is very possible that the world will marvel, not only at what we have built, but at the beauty that has been added to the world by the sacrifices of invisible mothers. (Original author: Nicole Johnson)



# AUGUST

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3 Aber Days
4 Aber Days Ecumenical Worship in Park @ 10:30 AM followed by potluck dinner	5 Emmanuel Council Meeting @ 6PM	6	7 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel	8	9	10
11 Galchutt 9:00 Worship  Emmanuel 10:30 Worship	12	13	14 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel	15	16	17
18 No Worship Echo Articles Due Today!!	19 Quilts of Valor @ Emmanuel noon-7 PM	20 Quilting at Emmanuel 9AM - 4 PM	21 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel	22	23	24
25 Galchutt 9:00 Worship  Emmanuel 10:30 Worship	26	27	28 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel	29	30 Emmanuel Altar Guild: August: Shirley Berg September: Gail Haarstad	31

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# *The Echo*

This month's issue of *The Echo*  
is sponsored by  
Ruth Upstad Hagander -  
In loving memory of  
Rev. Hans & Borghild Upstad

## 2019 CHURCH COUNCILS

### GALCHUTT

✦ Brice Bellmore  
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Doug Johnson  
Marissa Moxness

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Mardee Besette  
Austin Heyen  
Fred Tol  
Lesley Hulne  
Jessica Kappes

✦ Denotes Congregation President

## Just for Laughs.....

