

# The Echo

December 2019



The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him "Immanuel" which means "God with us" (*Matthew 1:23*).

## Traditions

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" I just love the holidays. There are such wonderful decorations, music, and lights. Time spent with family is so cherished.

Of all our family's holiday traditions, my favorite was the food. I love to eat!! My family was fortunate to spend Christmas with both sides of the family. Every Christmas Eve, we would gather with Dad's family. Then we would spend Christmas Day with Mom's. Some things were similar. The kids would play games and the adults would visit. We would sing and open presents. But the food was so different! Every year the menu was the same. With Dad, we ate spaghetti. With Mom: Swedish meatballs and rice pudding.

I remember the day in grade school when I learned most families eat ham or turkey. I was so confused! Doesn't everyone eat spaghetti and Swedish meatballs?!? I remember asking my Mom how this could be and I learned something wonderful.

My Dad's parents eat spaghetti every year because, when they were first married, that was all they could afford. Keeping this tradition alive reminds us of our humble beginnings and encourages us to be thankful for the things we have. My Mom's family ate their food to honor their heritage. Through Swedish meatballs and rice pudding, I now remember my own history of immigration and remember to have compassion on those who feel like foreigners.

Traditions are good when they teach important lessons about who we are and who we are to become. Today, my most cherished Christmas tradition is to go to church. As they say, "Jesus is the reason for the season." But it is more than that. At Christmas, we give thanks that God came to the world as a human so that we might be saved. With the birth of Jesus Christ, we experience the birth of hope. At Christmas, God fills us with so much joy - God has called us worthy and came to bring us new life! And that is why we go to church: to remember God's love and to remember this together.

What are your holiday traditions? How do they point you to important memories of the past? Perhaps you have reached a change in your life and it is time to make a new tradition. Wherever you live and wherever life has taken you, I invite you to make, re-make, or continue making church a

Christmas tradition. Jesus loves you. God loves you so much that he became human so he could be with you! Hallelujah! This is certainly the most important lesson to remember.

*Peace, Intern Pastor Meggie*



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# EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS!

**Christmas Eve candlelight service  
at Galchutt at 4 PM.**

**Christmas Eve candlelight service  
at Emmanuel at 5:30 PM.**

***(No worship services on 12/25/2019)***



**Alden Bevre was awarded  
a Quilt of Valor on  
November 17th for his  
service to our country  
during World War II. Thank  
you, Alden!**

With the Christmas season soon upon us, we would like to decorate our sanctuaries with poinsettias again this year. The cost this year is **\$9 each**. **Order deadline is Sunday, December 8th.**

Order blanks will also be available in the church bulletin.

Purchaser: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants (\$9 each): \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your checks to the parish office made payable to either the Emmanuel Church or Galchutt Church, depending on where you want the flower placed.



## **Emmanuel Lutheran 26th Annual Meatball Dinner with Bake Sale and Raffle Fundraiser**

**Sunday, December 8, 2019  
11:00 AM - 1:30 PM  
Abercrombie, ND**



Come join us for a meatball and mashed potatoes dinner with all the fixings. Free will donation for the meal.  
Buy some baked goodies from the bake sale.  
Raffle Prizes will be drawn during the meal.  
Need not be present to win raffle prizes, if drawn. Hope to see you there!!

**Looking Ahead:  
Emmanuel Annual Meeting  
January 19, 2020, after worship**

**Galchutt Annual Meeting  
January 25, 2020, at 9 AM**

### **CHAPEL ESCORT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

The Fargo VA Health Care System is looking for chapel escort volunteers on Sundays from 12 PM - 3 PM. The volunteer assignment would include:

- Go to various wards & invite patients to Protestant Worship Service
- Escort wheelchair-bound veterans to & from the chapel
- Assist chaplain as needed
- Help with clean-up after Protestant Worship Service
- Call 701-239-3700, Ext. 3395 if you can help.



**If you have an announcement for an event or photos from a baptism, wedding, or some other special event regarding a member or former member of our parish, we would love to include the information in an upcoming issue. Please email them to [lalee@rrt.net](mailto:lalee@rrt.net).**



What Christmas traditions does your family have that have endured time or have changed? I remember as a child we always gathered on Christmas Eve with my dad’s family but I have no recollection of what we ate because we were too excited as we waited to open gifts. Christmas Day was always spent with my mom’s side of the family and often included snowmobiling or sledding down at the river on their farm. As times changed and our families grew, we started to have our gatherings with our own immediate family. It always included meatballs and lutefisk on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, because neither family had eaten their share of lutefisk prior to that gathering! We now (thanks to a newer generation), have a variety of meats for Christmas. Finally, the kids must recite their Christmas program pieces prior to any gift opening.

Life is full of changes, like the first holiday you are apart from your family due to distance or death. As time goes on and you get older (and hopefully wiser), you realize it really isn’t that important if the Christmas tree sits in the same spot each year at your house or at the church? The same decorations don’t always need to be carefully placed in that same certain order? If the kids put all the ornaments at their eye level, well, it really doesn’t matter. Nevertheless, we naturally fear change and are anxious if things aren’t the way they have always been. However, we need to remember that God has a plan for us just as he had plans for Mary and Joseph. Plans I am sure neither Mary or Joseph would have chosen on their own. The following message from Billy Graham was published in Decision magazine in 1983.

Think back to that first Christmas about 2,000 years ago. It was probably late at night on the plains just a few miles outside the little village of Bethlehem. The stars shone like diamonds in the sky, and a little band of weary shepherds had settled down to sleep on the cold, rocky ground. They had no reason to expect that this night would be different from any other night, just as you may think that nothing is going to change in your own life. But God had other plans. This was the night that would be the most important night in human history, the night when God Himself would come to Earth. Listen to Luke’s account of that remarkable night: *“And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:9-11, KJV).*

So, whether your holiday this year is the same as every other year or whether there has been a change in your life, remember that God has a plan for you and embrace it like Mary and Joseph did over 2,000 years ago. May you be blessed this holiday season. Lou Ann Lee

**Noisy Offering:**

**Galchutt** - December 1st  
 ◇ Proceeds to Jessy’s Toy Box Wyndmere

**Emmanuel** -  
 December 1st & 15th  
 ◇ Proceeds to Richland/ Wilkin Backpack program.



**Christmas Programs:**

- ◇ **Galchutt**, December 15 during worship.
- ◇ **Emmanuel**, December 22 during worship.

**Thank you to the following for your help this past year on the Echo:**

- Ellen Rittenhouse
- Linda Kuruc
- Gail Haarstad
- Sara Bellmore



# LWR News

Thank you for the donations and support of the quilters during 2019. Just when we thought the materials would run out, God provided abundantly. We will not be quilting in December but will be planning for the next year. The quilt kits that others have sewn have been a hit so they will be continued in 2020. Watch for more quilt kits and other news in the January ECHO as we go forward with your help.

*Ellen Rittenhouse*

## ***This Giving Tuesday, make your compassion herd! Giving Tuesday is December 3rd.***



When it comes to Giving Tuesday, you may think you've herd it all before. But this year, we've set a big goal that will make a huge impact for hungry families. With your help, we want to raise 100 herds of animals for families in need around the world. So, what does that mean? And why does it matter? In places where families face hunger, animals are like insurance policies. Around the world, but especially in places where drought and food shortages drive families to the brink of hunger, livestock help families overcome more of life's herdles ... we mean hurdles. Giving an animal is like giving a safety net because an animal provides a source of food and income, which is especially valuable during hard times. Giving a family an entire herd of animals — including goats, sheep, pigs and hens — extends that safety net, helping a family to launch a small livestock business.

That's why we hope you'll join us for this special one-day event. On December 3, you'll be able to give an entire herd or contribute individual animals to a herd. It all counts for families working to lift themselves out of poverty! **For more information go to: <https://lwr.org/>**



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

#### **Galchutt Building Fund (Siding & Windows)**

- Jennifer & Tony Wulfekuhle
- Morna Syvertsen
- Jay & Cara Myers
- Joan Myers Hansen
- Ed & Marlys Larson
- Doug & Linda Kuruc
- Donovan & Jean Loff
- Larry Wold



#### **Emmanuel General Fund:**

- Family of Hjalmer & Ceil Larson
- Susan Rothwell

#### **Emmanuel Cemetery Fund:**

- In memory of Logan Wold
  - Bob & Carolyn Roesler
  - Linda Jones & Ken Adams

### **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 June 2020 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) \_\_\_ \$100 (full month)

**This Echo is sponsored by:**

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





### We Pray For:

- ◆ Belva Haverland & Cara Myers and their families as they mourn the loss of their brother and uncle, Bill Ward;
- ◆ Micah Moxness & his family as they search for answers for Micah's health;
- ◆ The Bevre family as they mourn the loss of Logan Wold; and
- ◆ All those who need God's healing hand and love for whatever reason.

## Emmanuel Lutheran Council Highlights - November 5



The Emmanuel Lutheran Church council met on November 5, 2019, with the following members present: Kevin Paczkowski, Deb Syvertsen, Jessica Kappes, Lesley Hulne, Austin Heyen, and Intern Pastor Meggie Bjerkness. Absent: Fred Tol and Mardee Besette.

**Call to Order:** President Kevin Paczkowski called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Meggie led the council in opening devotions from the book "Jesus Calling" by Sarah Young.

**Pastor's Report:** Intern Pastor Meggie discussed the possibility of investing in a church software called Breeze. It is a way to keep all contact info centralized as well as many other clerical duties. A motion to further look into this was made and approved. A visitation and mileage report was received. Motion to approve was made, seconded and passed.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from last meeting read. Motion to approve, seconded and passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kevin read the treasurer's report sent to him by Lou Ann. Motion to approve was made, seconded and passed. Noisy offering on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in October went to Richland PB & J in the amount of \$49.22. So far in November, \$32.32 was raised for the Richland/Wilkin Food Pantry. December will benefit the Backpack Program and January 2020 to Feed My Starving Children.

**Education Committee:** Classes are going well. Attendance is up and down. Classes will be held the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Next classes Nov 17, Dec 1 & 15. Christmas program will be Dec 22nd.

**Worship Committee:** Will be meeting when harvest settles down to discuss music.

**Property Committee:** Austin is checking all thermostats to make sure electric heat is main heat source and fuel oil is secondary. A sanctuary window has a small crack and window in back stairwell needs to be checked. **Stewardship Committee: NA**

**Old Business:** Three council members are needed to start Jan 2020. If anyone is interested, please contact a current council member. Annual Meeting will be held January 19, 2020. Potlucks have been planned for Nov 17 and Jan 19. Further discussion about meatball dinner prep and shopping. Annual meatball dinner will be December 8, 2019. Anyone interested in volunteering to help this year should contact a council member.

**New Business:** Robin Huebner from WDAY will be interviewing the Quilts of Valor group that meet in our upstairs space. New light fixtures in our entryway will be purchased and installed using donations. Motion to approve was made, seconded and passed. Jeff Syvertsen is selling Bison prints and offered some of the proceeds to benefit Emmanuel. Service times will be swapped with Galchutt on November 24th for God's Acre Sunday. We will be putting the tree up and decorating on November 24th and finishing it the following Sunday, December 1st.

**Closing:** Next council meeting will be Tuesday, December 10th at 6:30 PM (*see calendar for changed date*). Deb motioned to adjourn, Lesley seconded, and passed. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

*Secretary Pro Tem Jessica Kappes*

## Galchutt Lutheran Council Highlights - November 12



The Galchutt Lutheran Church council met on November 12 at 6 PM. The members present were Brice Bellmore, Marissa Moxness, Larry Wold, Jeff Miller, Kendra Dockter, Pamela Krump and Intern Meggie. The meeting was called to order by President Brice. The minutes of the October 14th meeting was read by Pamela. A motion by Larry, seconded by Kendra to accept the secretary's report. Motion carried. The treasurer's report was provided by Kendra. A motion by Pamela, seconded by Marissa to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

**Intern Pastor Report:** Intern Pastor Meggie provided her mileage report to the council members which also included her pastoral visitations. She continues to struggle with locating contact info for members and asked for suggestions. She is currently looking at a program called Breeze. It is \$50 per month and it would serve as a church directory and also be used for mass communication needs. She will be providing more information to Kendra and Pamela to discuss at future meeting if it is something we should pursue. Intern Pastor Meggie provided the council proposed continued education dates she would like to schedule. Pamela made a motion to approve the dates and Kendra seconded the motion. Motion carried. Those dates are: January 13-17, 2020; February 26-29, 2020; and June 21-26, 2020.

**Old Business:** Kendra reported to the council that Ray Norgard will not be contributing a bid for the window repairs. Kendra will reach out to Fargo Glass and Paint for an additional bid before we make a final decision.

**New Business:** Kendra reported to the council that she received a bid from Tecta America for roof repair at \$29,000. Herzog/Comstock was \$49,000. Will discuss future plans at annual meeting. The annual meeting is scheduled January 25th at 9 AM. Nominating committee is Kyle Krump, Cathy Fixen, Ed Larson, Kendra Dockter, and Larry Wold. Will need three new members to replace Kendra, Brice, and Larry. Next meeting will be December 17th at 5:45 PM. Kendra made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Larry seconded. Motion Carried. *Secretary Pamela Krump*



As we near the end of the fiscal year, councils will be addressing various issues and preparing budgets. Please "pray for guidance and wisdom" for our councils and those who prepare for the future of our congregations. When members contribute money to their church, they demonstrate a desire to have a part in helping people throughout the community and the world. And, while donating money to the church is an important aspect of stewardship, it is not the entire meaning of stewardship. When people talk about how the gifts of the church have made a difference in individual lives or in communities, stewardship education takes place. Stewardship is also action!

New council members are needed at both churches in 2020. The council is guided by the church's constitution and bylaws and is responsible for specific areas of church life such as worship, education, evangelism, property, and stewardship. They plan church activities and seek other church members to assist with projects. There is no education, career, or financial qualification for becoming a council member (other than having a mature judgment). They are baptized & confirmed Christians willing to give of their time and talent for the mission of the church. Please prayerfully consider becoming a church council member if you are called upon or contact your present council if you can help.

# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 "Noisy Offering Sunday" (both)</p> <p>Galchutt 9AM Worship 10AM Sunday School</p> <p>Emmanuel 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship</p>	2	3	<p>4 AA Mtg 7 PM @ Emmanuel</p> <p>Confirmation at Our Saviors Church 1:30 PM (note time change)</p>	5	<p>6 RHS Coffee with Kids 8:45AM</p>	7
<p>8 Galchutt 9 AM Worship</p> <p>Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>26th Annual Meatball Dinner &amp; Bake Sale 11-1:30</p>	9	10	<p>11 Emmanuel Council Mtg 6:30PM</p> <p>AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel</p> <p>Confirmation at Our Saviors Church 3:30 PM</p>	12	13	14
<p>15 Galchutt 9 AM Worship with Christmas Program</p> <p>Emmanuel 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship "Noisy Offering (E)"</p>	16	<p>17 Galchutt Council Mtg 5:45 PM</p>	<p>18 AA Mtg 7 PM @ Emmanuel</p> <p>Confirmation at Our Saviors Church 3:30 PM</p>	19	20	21
<p>22 Galchutt 9 AM Worship</p> <p>Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship with Christmas Program</p>	23	<p>24 Candelight Worship Services</p> <p>Galchutt 4 PM Emmanuel 5:30 PM</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day</p> 	26	27	28
<p>29 Galchutt 9AM Worship</p> <p>Emmanuel 10:30AM Worship</p>	30	31	<p>Emmanuel Altar Guild for December - Ellen Rittenhouse</p>		<p>LOOKING AHEAD: Emmanuel Annual Meeting January 19, 2020</p>	<p>LOOKING AHEAD: Galchutt Annual Meeting January 25, 2020</p>



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## Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry

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# The Echo

This month's issue of **The Echo**  
is sponsored by  
Lonnie & Vonnie Halverson  
In loving memory of Jay Halverson.

## CHURCH COUNCILS

### GALCHUTT

‡ Brice Bellmore  
Larry Wold  
Kendra Dockter  
Jeff Miller  
Pamela Krump  
Doug Johnson  
Marissa Moxness

### EMMANUEL

‡ Kevin Paczkowski  
Deb Syvertsen  
Mardee Besette  
Austin Heyen  
Fred Tol  
Lesley Hulne  
Jessica Kappes

‡ Denotes Congregation President

## Just for Laughs.....

