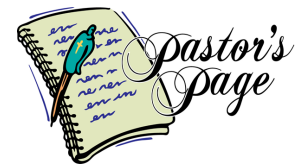


# The Echo

January 2020



## Redirection

*"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it'" (Isaiah 30:21).*

I have a tendency to think I have my life all figured out. I am a planner and goal-oriented. I live by my planner and often have my days planned down to the hour. And then, I get a little out of sorts when things don't go as expected.

This is especially the case when it comes to faith. More than once in my life, I have been totally convinced of where I was headed only to have God come in and send my life in a totally different direction!

One time in college, I thought I had the perfect plan. I was going to finish school, graduate early, and then leave the country to do mission work. I was so convinced this was God's plan for me! I remember praying, "God, this is what I think you're calling me to do. If I'm wrong, please let me know."

Well, he sure let me know. Every activity I signed up for and each class I tried to take ended in failure. They either didn't want me in the group, had too many applicants, or cancelled the event. After several months of failing in my attempts to be involved in school, I finally called my dad in frustration. "What is going on?" I cried. "Doesn't God know this is my plan!?" My dad simply said, "I don't know what's going on dear. Now, when was it again that you were going to leave the country?" In that moment, through my dad, I heard the voice of God.

Five months later I left the country to do mission work in the Caribbean.

So, here we are seven years later. It is a New Year: 2020. 'Tis the season of evaluation and redirection, setting goals and chasing after them. In the midst of that, I ask you this:

What is God calling you to do in your life? Where have you seen him at work in your life? In your home? In your community? Has God been calling you to do something and you've been resisting him?

From time to time, we all must re-examine what God is doing in our lives and ask how we are called to respond.

Going forward, I hope we can answer those questions together. Where is God at work in our community? What is God's vision for Emmanuel Lutheran and Galchutt Lutheran? What might the future look like? Together, I hope we will pray for the wisdom to see God at work and the courage to follow God's lead.

Peace and Happy New Year! *Intern Pr. Meggie*



**Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry Office: (701) 553-8546**

Intern Pastor Meggie Bjertness; cell (701) 205-6803

Admin. Asst. email: [emmanuelgalchutt@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelgalchutt@gmail.com); Admin. Asst. cell (701) 640-7074

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

# EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Galchutt Sunday School Christmas program (left) and Christmas Eve children's sermon (right)



**Emmanuel Annual Meeting**  
Sunday, January 19, 2020, after worship  
and potluck dinner

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



Intern Pastor Meggie will be at Luther Seminary from Monday, January 13th to Friday, January 17th. Please contact Pastor Jule Ballinger at (701) 866-1714 or [juleballinger@gmail.com](mailto:juleballinger@gmail.com) for any pastoral needs during this time.




Emmanuel Christmas Eve worship (above) and Sunday School Christmas program (below)



**SAVE THE DATE!!**

Feed My Starving Children is coming back to Fargo! Last year, people from all over the region joined together to pack 2.5 million meals for hungry people all over the world. This year, they want to do it again! Emmanuel and Galchutt churches plan to pack on Saturday, February 1. We would love to have you pack with us! Stay tuned for more info!



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).



*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).*

Each new year brings new beginnings. As we look toward 2020, our church family can thank God for the new beginnings we have experienced within our own church community. Frankly, our congregations have struggled over the past few years as we have searched for a new pastor, more than once. During that time, we didn't always agree on what was best for our churches.

As many of you know, the number of newly ordained pastors in our synod, or even pastors in general, don't fulfill the number of congregations searching for leadership. During our transition period, we were fortunate to form a connection with the NDSU Campus Ministry through our relationship with Kim Adams and her family. Our congregations then left the comfort zone of having a full-time ordained pastor and pulpit supply by hiring a third-year seminary student as an intern pastor. While we have only worked together for four months, I believe our congregations have been extremely blessed with our new relationship with Intern Pastor Meggie. Congregations are to give an intern experience in leading worship, teaching youth, pastoral care, leadership, and administration. Quite honestly, Intern Meggie has already given so much back to our congregations. Her concern in wanting to get to know our members and be involved in events in our community is something we needed to put excitement back into our members and provide a feeling of becoming new again.

Our synod will soon experience new leadership as Bishop Terry Brandt starts a new position with Concordia College and a new bishop steps in to guide the synod. We thank Intern Pastor Meggie for leading us forward and we wish Bishop Brandt the best in his new endeavor. Happy New Year to all!

*Lou Ann Lee, Editor*

## LWR News

**This Facebook post by LWR Quilter MFD shows your quilting and donations are appreciated:**

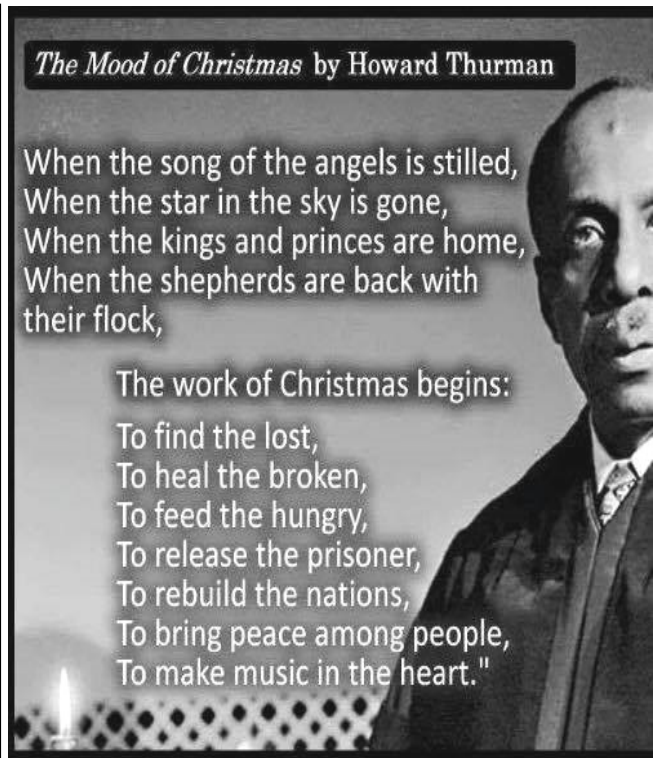
*"My morning after hip surgery is like a miracle of no pain and a wonderful story of my nurse tech from Naples who asked me about my hobbies, and I said quilting and especially for church and Lutheran World Relief. She told me her story of how her family came to the US in 2008 after being in a refugee camp for several years. And we got to talking about how she and her family had nothing but a tent until Lutheran World Relief came and gave them quilts and other kits. She had tears as she thanked me for her quilts as it was all they had to stay warm and sit on for a while. This God moment for me was inspirational. Thanks Calvary Lutheran quilting group for this ministry I can share in. All those of us who wonder if our hands and needles make a difference...yes for sure."*

*The Mood of Christmas by Howard Thurman*

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with  
their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
To make music in the heart."



## A Prayer of Hope

In 2008, Billy Graham wrote a beautiful prayer for the New Year. It was published in The Saturday Evening Post and reminds us that our future is in God’s hands and our hope is in Him. The words are just as relevant today as they were in 2008.

*Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year, we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future. We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So, help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.*

*In the midst of life’s uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love.*

*In the midst of life’s inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need.*

*In the midst of life’s temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost.*

*And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: “Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end” (Psalm 119:33).*

*We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them.*

*Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 33:12).*

*As we look back over this past year, we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and center of our lives this year.*

*And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come. Amen.*



### We pray for:

- ◆ The family of Pamela (Holmquist) Joy who recently passed away; and
- ◆ Healing for Vicki Moen, Micah Moxness, and Morna Syvertsen, who all have dealt with recent medical issues.

Do you get our weekly emails? Our office sends out weekly eUpdates on Fridays regarding events, services, and special announcements. If you would like to receive them, please email our office at [emmanuelgalchutt@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelgalchutt@gmail.com).



Thank you to everyone who bought/sold raffle tickets, donated prizes & bake sale items, or worked at Emmanuel's annual meatball dinner. We couldn't do it without all of you!! Raffle winners posted at the church.

## Emmanuel Lutheran Council Highlights



The Emmanuel Lutheran Church council met on December 11, 2019, with the following members present: Kevin Paczkowski, Deb Syvertsen, Jessica Kappes, Lesley Hulne, Fred Tol, Intern Pastor Meggie Bjertness, and Treasurer Lou Ann Lee. Absent: Austin Heyen & Mardee Besette. President Kevin called the meeting to order. Meggie led the council in devotions and prayer.

**Pastor's Report:** Meggie stated she had talked to Kendra and LouAnn about her trial of the church software, Breeze. It was decided to use the database software that both churches have already been using and get it updated for a more effective way to centralize contact info. Feed My Starving Children is having another MobilePack event. Emmanuel is tentatively scheduled for February 1st from 1-3 PM. More info will be available as the date approaches. Volunteers to assist at this event are welcome! Meggie presented her visitation/mileage report. Motion made to accept and carried.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from last meeting were read. Motion made to accept and carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Noisy offering in December will benefit the Backpack Program and January 2020 to Feed My Starving Children. Lou Ann presented a summary on what was raised through the meatball dinner, bake sale, and raffle ticket sales. The 2020 proposed budget report was presented. Deb motioned to accept it as presented and Lesley seconded. Motion carried.

**Education Committee:** No class was held December 1st due to weather. Next class will be December 15th. Christmas program December 22nd. Regular schedule of 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month will resume Jan 5th and 19th. **Stewardship Committee: NA.**

**Worship Committee:** The November meeting was successful and they plan to meet again in January.

**Property Committee:** Chairlift has been fixed. Leaking in the Upstad room needs to be fixed before spring. Heating issues in the sanctuary continue; service will be called to fix the problem.

**Old Business:** Annual Meeting and potluck will be held January 19, 2020. There will be meatballs, potatoes and ice cream to serve. The annual meatball dinner and raffle fundraiser was a success! Thank you to all who sold tickets and volunteered your help to prep and to serve the day of the event.

**New Business:** Motions were made and carried to give monetary gifts to: Marsha Hendrickson for her continued visitations prior to Pastor Meggie arriving; a struggling community member for rent assistance; the Richland/Wilkin Backpack Program; CHI Health at Home Hospice; and Pastor Meggie.

**Closing:** Next council meeting will be after the annual meeting on January 19th. Motion to adjourn and closing with the Lord's Prayer. Jessica Kappes, Secretary Pro Tem

### A NOTE OF THANKS:

*Thank you to Emmanuel Church for remembering Curt, and those who bought the beautiful poinsettias on the Altar in his memory.*

*I know he is looking down and thinking what a beautiful job you did decorating our church.*

*He loved Emmanuel and his Church family*

*God Bless you*

*Sheryl  
family*

#### Emmanuel General Fund:

- Melanie Jensen (Thrivent)
- Sally Caderet
- Susan Rothwell
- Lewis Nelson fund
- Clifton & Donna Stedje
- Jacqueline Brissey & Melanie Jensen (Thrivent)

#### Emmanuel Quilting Fund:

- Rose Adair (Thrivent dollars)
- Clifton & Donna Stedje





## Galchutt Lutheran Council Highlights

The Galchutt Lutheran Church council met on December 17th at 6 PM. The members present were Brice Bellmore, Jeff Miller, Kendra Dockter, Pamela Krump and Intern Meggie. The meeting was called to order by President Brice. The minutes of the November 12th meeting was read by Pamela. A motion by Kendra, seconded by Brice to accept the secretary's report. Motion carried. The treasurer's report was provided by Kendra. A motion by Pamela, seconded by Jeff 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. To help with keeping a member directory she created a google docs drive with Kendra and Pamela. Intern Pastor Meggie asked the council if the church would be interested in volunteering at the Feed your Starving Children event on February 1, 2020. Once she is able to reserve a time for us an announcement will be made to the congregation.

**Old Business:** Kendra received a bill from Comstock for the construction that was completed. The broken windows in entry way and dining room were repaired by Fargo Glass and Paint on December 8th. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped stain the trim around the new windows.

**New Business:** The council discussed ideas of donating funds from the coffee fund. Brice made a motion to donate \$1,000 to help with the Moxness Benefit that is tentatively scheduled for March 7th. Kendra seconded the motion and the motion carried. Kendra made a motion to donate \$250 to an area family in need. Brice seconded the motion and the motion carried. Kendra mentioned to the council the ND Synod office donated \$500 to Galchutt Church in help with Internship Expenses. Nominating committee is Kyle Krump, Cathy Fixen, Ed Larson, Kendra Dockter, and Larry Wold. Will need 3 new members to replace Kendra, Brice, and Larry.

Next meeting will be the annual meeting on January 25th at 9 AM.  
Jeff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pamela seconded. Motion Carried.

*Secretary Pamela Krump*

### 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 July 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 sponsor)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 (full month sponsor)

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

(in loving memory) **OR** (in honor of)

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you to the following for help with staining and preparing our windows after the recent construction project:

- Julie Loff
- Doug & Linda Kuruc
- Lori Loff
- Sara Bellmore



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

**Galchutt Building Fund (Siding & Window Project):**

- Mike & Sylvia Myers
- Doug & Lori Loff



# January 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 RHS Coffee with Kids	4
5 "Noisy Offering" Galchutt 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School Emmanuel 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	6	7	8 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel Confirmation at O.S. 3:30 PM	9	10	11
12 Galchutt 9 AM Worship Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship	13 Pastor Meggie at Luther Seminary	14 Pastor Meggie at Luther Seminary	15 Pastor Meggie at Luther Seminary AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel Confirmation at O.S. 3:30 PM	16 Pastor Meggie at Luther Seminary	17 Pastor Meggie at Luther Seminary	18 Echo Articles Due Today!!
19 "Noisy Offering" Galchutt 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School Emmanuel 9:30 AM S.School 10:30 AM Worship, POTLUCK & ANNUAL MEETING	20 Quilts of Valor @ Emmanuel noon-7 PM	21 Quilting at Emmanuel 9AM - 4PM	22 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel Confirmation at O.S. 3:30 PM	23	24	25 Galchutt Church Annual Meeting 9AM
26 Galchutt 9 AM Worship Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship	27	28	29 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel Confirmation at O.S. 3:30 PM	30	31	

**Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry Office: (701) 553-8546**

Intern Pastor Meggie Bjertness; cell (701) 205-6803

Admin. Asst. email: [emmanuelgalchutt@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelgalchutt@gmail.com) ; Admin. Asst. cell (701) 640-7074

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

## Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
P. O. Box 119  
Abercrombie, ND 58001

Galchutt Lutheran Church  
105 Galchutt Avenue  
Galchutt, ND 58075

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT # 101  
ABERCROMBIE, ND 58001

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# The Echo

This month's issue of **The Echo**  
is sponsored by  
Mary Jo Shafer  
In loving memory of  
David Flaa

## 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

**Notice: Please inform Intern Pastor Meggie if you know of someone who may be interested in becoming a member of either of our churches.**

## Just for Laughs.....

