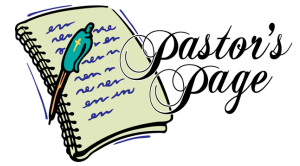


The Echo

February 2020



A BLIZZARD PSALM

I looked out my window on a snowy, wintry day to take in the white, washed-out view of yet another blizzard. While I knew I could stay warm and cozy in my home until the weather improved, I remembered that not all feel as fortunate today.

For some, their dwelling is not their home.

Some are not safe at home, Some do not have a home,

Some cannot work, Some can't afford *not* to work, Some can't find work.

For some, cold is a mortal enemy, Others fear new and different enemies: Anxiety, Depression, Pain, Sickness, Death... If only the walls of a house could keep those away too!

God reminds us in Isaiah 43: 2-4: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. You are precious in my sight. You are honored and I love you."

When the blizzard rages and the cold wind bites at your skin, When the snow falls thick to pile you in, The Lord is your strength and your shield (Ps. 28:7). He will command his angels to guard you, lest you dash your foot against a stone (Ps 91:11-12). And someday when the storm is over, God will call again. You will become his hands and help others through their storms.

To those of you in any storm, take heart. You are blest, for God remembers you. To the rest, we are God's angels to command. How may we use our gifts to help others stay safe amidst the storm?

Peace, Intern Pr. Meggie

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:3-10).



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EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS!



26th Annual Colfax Fire & Rescue Fundraiser

Prime Rib Supper

February 15, 2020 Serving from 4:00-8:00pm
Colfax Community Center

Silent Auction during supper

Adults--\$15.00
Seniors (65+)--\$10.00
Ages 6-12--\$5.00
Ages 5 and under--Free




BENEFIT FOR MICAH MOXNESS

**Saturday, March 7, 2020
5pm - 10pm**
Wahpeton Community Center
304 5th Street South, Wahpeton



Please come out to support Micah and his family! Proceeds of the event will go towards medical bills and travel expenses and will be appreciated by his family! Micah is a preschooler at Breckenridge Elementary.



Micah Moxness, the 5 year old son of Matt & Marissa Moxness, has been in and out of hospitals and doctoring since early July 2019. He has a disease that has begun to affect nearly every aspect of his and his family's daily life. There were months of no diagnosis or misdiagnosis, but recently they were given a working diagnosis: Post Infectious Autoimmune Encephalitis at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. After fighting off illness it is thought that his immune system went overboard and mistakenly attacked his brain and neurological system. He will continue doctoring at the Mayo Clinic and likely receive treatment every 3-4 weeks for 6 months or more there, along with continued occupational speech, and physical therapy locally during his recovery. Micah's favorite things include football, NDSU Bison, tractors at farming, and the family pets. Matt and Marissa farm near Kent, MN on Matt's family farm and have a 2 year old son as well.

- Meal
- Pulled Pork Sandwich
- Baked Beans & Potato Salad
- Silent Auction
- Raffle
- Bake Sale
- Monetary donations may be sent to:
Bremer Bank
225 North 5th Street
Breckenridge, MN 56520

Follow Micah's medical journey at his caring bridge site:
<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/micahmoxness>
Micah LOVES mail!
2665 170th Avenue, Kent, MN 56553

To volunteer or donate, contact benefit coordinator:
Steph Beyer 701-640-1945



Baked Potato & Ham Dinner





**Sunday, March 1, 2020
11:00 am-1:00 pm**

At the Abercrombie Elementary School
Free Will Donation

Sponsored by the Bethany Free Lutheran Youth Group

The free will offering for the soup and sandwich suppers during Lent will go to help support the costs of Vacation Bible School

ABERCROMBIE LEGION ANNUAL MEATBALL DINNER

(Meatballs, potatoes, gravy, corn, coleslaw, bread, dessert)

Sunday, March 15, 2020
Serving 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM
at the Abercrombie Community Hall
"Free Will Offering"

Hosted by the
American Legion Post 128 - Abercrombie,
American Legion Post 282 - Galchutt,
& Sons of the American Legion Squadron 282

Celebrating over 100 Years of the American Legion!

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.



What is an "Intern Pastor"?

I cannot say thank you enough for allowing me to serve my internship at Galchutt and Emmanuel Lutheran Churches. I have been a seminary student for three and a half years and am nearing the end of my journey. Internship is an incredible time of growth and discovery. This is the first time I have served as a pastor, and internship allows me to learn how a church operates, to experiment with leadership, and to learn and grow through my mistakes. Thank you for helping me through that process. Truly, it could not be done without you!

In the meantime, you get a pastor. Not a fully developed and ordained pastor, but a minister-in-training authorized by the synod to preach, lead worship, perform baptisms, lead funerals, do visits, and preside over communion. It has been an honor to be called to serve these churches. Again, thank you for allowing me to step into this sacred role in your church.

My seminary journey will end with graduation and ordination. I finish my internship on September 6, 2020, and graduate in December 2020. On the road to becoming an ordained pastor, I must be approved by the seminary and the synod before being assigned to a region of the country where I will look for my first call. My Approval is scheduled for August 2020. I will be assigned in late September and will begin looking for my first call in October 2020. Because of this process, I am unable to consider a call with any congregation until after I have been assigned. After I am assigned, I intend to follow the formal steps of call in which I submit my paperwork to the synod and interview with multiple congregations.

Isaiah 30:21 reminds us, "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.'" The call process is put forward for both ministers and congregations to allow intentional, prayerful discernment about the future. No matter what the future holds, scripture assures us that God is at work, directing our steps, and bringing about his kingdom and will in the world. I am interested to see what God has in store for the future of your churches as well as for me. I know you are also in the process of calling a Pastor. This is, indeed, a holy and uncertain time for us all. If you have questions about your own call process, please have your call committee connect with Shar Gumke in the synod office.

We live in a time of turbulent change within the church and the world. As such, we pray that God would keep his eyes on our future. May God give us the peace and comfort to look to the future with confidence. God's eyes are on us all. May he bring about his will both now and forever. Amen.

Intern Pr. Meggie

Four Chaplains Sunday -

Traditionally, the first Sunday in February is Four Chaplains Sunday. The story of the four chaplains is compelling, highlighting the faith, courage, and spirit of interfaith cooperation that chaplains are called to exhibit in caring for service members and their families. On Feb. 3, 1943, the converted luxury liner *Dorchester* was struck by a torpedo while crossing the North Atlantic; the ship sank within 20 minutes. Hundreds of U.S. troops and civilians were aboard the ship when it was struck, and as passengers were scurrying to lifeboats, four chaplains—the Rev. George Fox (Methodist), Rabbi Alexander Good (Jewish), the Rev. Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Fr. John Washington (Roman Catholic)—spread out and began helping the wounded and panicked. Amid the chaos, the four chaplains were calmly offering prayers and encouraging words. When life jackets ran out, the chaplains already had given their own to others fleeing the ship. The four men joined arms and said prayers, singing hymns as they sank with the ship.

<https://readthespirit.com/religious-holidays-festivals/tag/four-chaplains-sunday/>



February is the month most people associate with “love.” However, if you were to search the origin of Valentine’s Day, you would find accounts that are actually rather dark in nature. Modern times, on the other hand, has molded Valentine’s Day into a commercial event in which gifts and cards are used to demonstrate our affection. I’m not sure that either of these would resonate with Jesus.

Jesus spent so much of his ministry preaching of love in its many forms, telling us how it was God’s command that we love each other. When he said this, he wasn’t just talking about nice thoughts or sweet gifts for others but something much more demanding, something that REALLY comes from the heart. This isn’t always easy but we can find examples of people who do live this conspicuous kind of love, sometimes in rather creative ways.

Recently, a movie has been released starring Tom Hanks as the late Fred McFeely Rogers, a television personality who, after graduating from seminary and becoming a Presbyterian minister, attended graduate school for child development. His goal in life was to minister to children and their families through television rather than in the normal church setting. He likely reached an audience who didn’t even realize the goal of his ministry.

Fred Rogers had many wise sayings regarding love, such as, “Love isn't a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun like struggle. To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly the way he or she is, right here and now.” Rogers, someone who always seemed to focus on acceptance and equal treatment for everyone, also said, “When we love a person, we accept him or her exactly as is: the lovely with the unlovely, the strong with the fearful, the true mixed in with the façade, and of course, the only way we can do it is by accepting ourselves that way.” Unfortunately all of us at times have a hard time following those words of wisdom. In these times of such diversity, we often struggle to accept others who may hold different religious or political beliefs, who may look different, act differently or come from a different socio-economic status. We allow petty issues to divide us when Jesus just asks us to empathize and show love.

As we make an effort to be more accepting of others, may we be reminded of the words found in John 15:12: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

LouAnn Lee



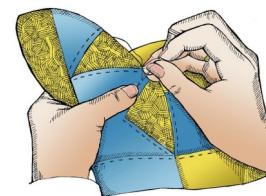
LWR News

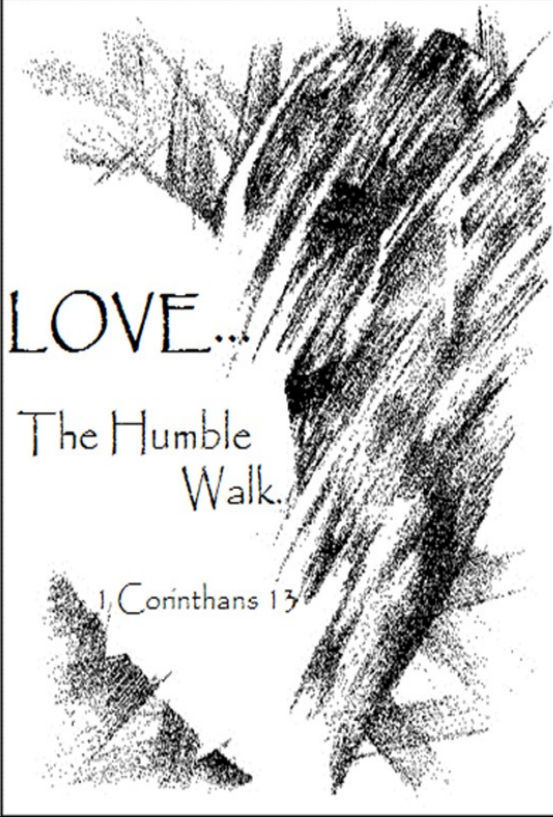
Here we are in a new year with very little quilt and kit activity to report. The quilters will meet beginning on February 18, weather permitting. Planning for personal care kits and school kits in 2020 is starting so you can watch for an item list coming next month.

The school kits collected in 2018 were sent to Syria and Sierra Leone in February and May 2019 respectively. In July 2019 quilts were sent to Peru for use during their “winter” season. In the next few months I expect we will have a report on the destination of later kit and quilt shipments.

We appreciate your continued support of Lutheran World Relief through donations. With just three quilters the number of quilts being shipped is getting smaller but the kit donations are increasing. In addition to LWR, we generously assist local organizations as well. We are thankful for your continued support. Thank you!!

Ellen Rittenhouse





Our 2020 Lenten Journey

**Galchutt and Emmanuel Lutheran Churches
Mid-Week Lenten Holden Evening Prayer**

Ash Wednesday: Feb 26 at Galchutt Lutheran

Lent: March 4 - April 1, watch for schedule

Easter: Sunday, April 12

Please join us for soup & sandwich supper with a free will offering between 6-6:45 PM and Lenten services following at 7 PM.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”



We pray for the following:

- ◆ Loretta Hendrickson and her family, in the loss of her granddaughter Holly who recently passed away;
- ◆ The family of Irene Bursheim, who passed away on January 25th;
- ◆ Vicki Moen, as she deals with medical issues;
- ◆ Micah Moxness, as he also deals with unknown medical issues; and
- ◆ Our new church council members, as they make decisions for our congregations.



Thank you to the following for their recent donations:

Galchutt Building Fund (Siding & Window Project)

- Brice & Sara Bellmore

Emmanuel General Fund

- John & Becky Flaa & Proseed
- David & Marsha Hendrickson

Noisy Offerings for the coming months:

- ◆ February
 - ⇒ Galchutt - Feed My Starving Children
 - ⇒ Emmanuel - NDSU Campus Ministry
- ◆ March
 - ⇒ Galchutt - PB&J Fund at Richland School
 - ⇒ Emmanuel - Red River Hospice



"Noisy Offering"

In the image of love

While using play therapy with young cancer patients, social worker Amy Jandrisevits found that kids identify best with dolls that resemble them — yet doll diversity was rare.

As described in Gather magazine, she launched a line called “A Doll Like Me” that customizes dolls not only to “a child’s ethnicity, gender, hair color and interests, but also their physical characteristics such as clefts, birthmarks, scars and limb differences.” She adds, “It is more than just a doll to a child; it is a representation of the child who owns it.” So far, Jandrisevits has made 300+ dolls for kids worldwide — a project she considers to be a ministry.

Dolls representing vast human differences are a profound reminder that God infused the world with variety and pronounced it good. Just as each custom-made doll is made in the image of the child who will adopt and love it, we’re made in the image of God, who claims us as his beloved children forever.



We are all different.



Our Lenten Focus

Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.

The point isn’t to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus’ death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: “The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less.”

(from *newsletternewsletter.com*)

Intern Pastor Meggie will be at Luther Seminary from February 27th - 29th. Kim Adams will lead worship on March 1st.

Please contact Pastor Jule Ballinger at (701) 866-1714 or juleballinger@gmail.com for any pastoral needs during this time.



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)

_____.



February 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Feed My Starving Children 11-1 Fargo
2 "Noisy Offering" Galchutt 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School Emmanuel 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	3	4	5 Bible Study 10 AM @ Aber Comm Hall AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel Confirmation at O.S. 3:30 PM	6	7 Coffee with Kids @ RHS Elem. Irene Bursheim funeral 11 AM	8
9 Galchutt 9 AM Worship Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship	10	11	12 Bible Study 10 AM @ Aber Comm Hall AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel Confirmation at O.S. 3:30 PM	13	14 No School	15
16 Galchutt 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School Emmanuel 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship & Noisy Offering	17 Quilts of Valor @ Emmanuel noon-7 PM Ski Day @ Detroit Mtn 9AM - 5PM	18 Quilting at Emmanuel 9AM - 4PM	19 Bible Study 10 AM @ Aber Comm Hall AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel Confirmation at O.S. 3:30 PM	20	21	22
23 Galchutt 9 AM Worship Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship JOINT Council Meeting 11:30 AM @ Emmanuel	24	25	26 Bible Study 10 AM @ Aber Comm Hall AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel Ash Wednesday service Galchutt 6 PM supper 7 PM service	27 Pastor Meggie at Luther Seminary	28 Pastor Meggie at Luther Seminary	29 Pastor Meggie at Luther Seminary

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The Echo

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In loving memory of Robert Adams
and Edgar & Josephine Moe

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Just for Laughs.....

APOLOGY

A very embarrassed woman apologized to her pastor because her husband had gotten up and left the sanctuary during the sermon.



"My husband didn't leave because he disagreed with your sermon," she said. "Actually, he's been walking in his sleep since he was a child."