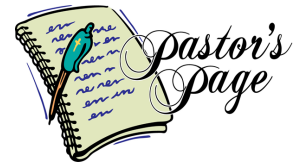


# The Echo

March 2020



## The Power of Community

On the fifth floor of Fargo's newest Sanford hospital is a very curious counter. This counter is full of coins delicately balanced on their edge. They are not glued or fake! Each is delicately placed and balanced until something else knocks it down.



When I was a hospital Chaplain, the strangeness of this scene caught my eye whenever I walked past, but I never stopped to set one up. I was afraid I would knock down all the other coins or be judged by a passerby. One day, I finally mustered the courage and tried it. It is not easy! Try it yourself!

Soon it was my custom to set up at least one coin each day. Over time, I realized these coins were not so different from the patients I visited. Each patient had been "knocked over" in life and sought to get their life back into balance. As a Chaplain, I got to be part of the medical team who gently helps each "coin" back into position. With care, concern, and intentionality, we do our best to help each patient and their families to stand up again and find healing. Just like the coins, some lives take more work to balance than others and, unfortunately, some "coins" are so aged or battered they are unable to be set up at all.

This is also the call of a good community. In many ways, God calls us all to "set people upright." Different than "setting people straight," to set someone upright means to help bring their life back into balance during hardship. Each of us is "set up" and ready for life until life's storms - illness, grief, job loss, marriage problems, parenting stressors, bullying, finances, addiction, aging, etc. - come and knock us down.



Scripture encourages us to bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2), to build one another up (1 Thes. 5:11), and to love one another as God has loved us (John 13:34-35). We don't have to be medical professionals to join God's work. How unique that, as Christians, we get to reach out and help those around us AND get helped by the body of Christ when the storms of life knock us over.

***Jesus, open our eyes to see the lives that are "knocked over" around us. Give us the courage, wisdom, and strength to set them upright with care and intention. And Lord, please bring people into our own lives when we are knocked down and remind of your presence in our darkest moments. Amen.***



Peace, Meggie Bjertness

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# EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS!

## Pancake Breakfast



**Colfax Park Board Pancake Feed**  
Sunday, March 1st,  
10:00 AM -1:00 PM  
at the Colfax  
Community Center.  
Free Will Donation.  
Proceeds will be  
used to help  
purchase a heater  
for the big pool.



**Thank you to those who volunteered at the Feed My Starving Children event on February 1st in Fargo. Our group had 11 volunteers and the entire shift finished 842 boxes that will make 181,872 meals! Job well done!**

## Baked Potato & Ham Dinner



Sunday,  
March 8, 2020  
11:00 am-1:00 pm

At the Abercrombie  
Elementary School  
Free Will Donation

Sponsored by the Bethany Free Lutheran Youth Group

# 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.



- 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 Bever 701-640-1945

*The Men's Club of  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Colfax, ND*



## FISH FRY

**Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 5:30 to 7:00pm**  
**@ Colfax Community Center**  
(Storm Date: Friday, March 20th)

*Cod Filet, Baked Potato, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw,  
Beverage & Dessert*  
**Cost: Adults \$10 - Children 6-12 \$5.00  
Kids 5 and under FREE**



**SKI DAY—22 people from five families attended and had a blast. Praise the Lord!**



**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](mailto:lalee@rrt.net).**



*The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully (2 Corinthians 9:6).*

Ash Wednesday, February 26th this year, marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 days of preparation for the Easter season when Christians are called to deepen their spiritual lives. It is believed that involvement in these practices, like exercise we do to improve our physical health, improves our spiritual well-being by shedding all that is unnecessary in our life. Maybe this year we could try something new and go beyond the usual practice of “giving up” something and instead try “taking up” something - something we normally would not do that could help us and, in certain cases, the community around us. Something that may even take us out of our comfort zone!

- Try a new spiritual practice. Read a chapter of the Bible or a few scriptures each day. Spend at least one hour in silent meditation each weekend. For all of us so tempted to look at our phones or computers, that could be a combination of giving up something and taking up something else.
- Instead of turning on a streaming service for your next binge-watching session or storm day, read the entire Gospel of Mark in one sitting. As the shortest Gospel, it is a concise story of Jesus’ life.
- Unplug from your phone or turn off your car radio on your drive to work or town. The silence may be jarring at first, but you may find that you are able to concentrate better and will be more observant of your surroundings.
- Spend at least one weekend or evening volunteering during Lent. Serve a meal at your local homeless shelter or church-related event. Volunteer at the food pantry.
- Take something on for each of the 40 days of Lent — 40 days of letter writing, 40 acts of kindness, 40 phone calls to the important people in your life. The list is endless. Something as simple as sharing a kind word or a smile with someone may change that person’s day.

God doesn’t only use the pastors or priests to get his work done. God uses all kinds of people to get His work done, most of whom will never be famous for the work they do. He can use us right now, wherever we are and whoever we are. He has given us gifts and abilities but it is our job to “use” those gifts. The Bible says, “When He ascended on high, He ... gave gifts to His people” (Ephesians 4:8).

Lou Ann Lee

**Noisy Offerings for March:**

Galchutt - PB&J Fund at RHS

Emmanuel - Red River Hospice



"Noisy Offering"



Lent is a time for restoring balance to our lives. The Eskimos practice balance as they venture into freezing Arctic waters in little boats. If you’ve ever paddled a kayak, you know how easy they are to tip. Thankfully, kayaks are just as easy to turn back upright.

That isn’t a bad image for Lent — or for life as a whole. Whatever spiritual disciplines we adopt, if we succumb to temptation, it’s no biggie. One of the lessons of Lent is that, as long as we’re traveling light, it takes only a quick twist of the paddle to right us. That paddle twist might take the form of a quick but heartfelt prayer: “Jesus, set me straight again!” Or it might mean some extra time set aside for quiet meditation with God. Don’t get worried if your spiritual discipline fails now and then. Just let Jesus help you get upright once more, and keep paddling!

—adapted from Carlos Wilton, in *Homiletics*

# LWR News

## Greetings from Janel, LWR's new Quilt & Kit Ministry Manager

Dear Friends,

I learned to crochet sitting hip-to-hip with my grandmother on the living room sofa. She kept her hands busy with needle and yarn fashioning snuggly masterpieces morning and night. Every time I visited, we'd get down to business with our projects — she with skill and precision, and me with my fingers tripping over my crochet hook. Even more important than what we created with our hands was the beautiful, loving connection we built in our hearts.

This love is what drew me to the LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry. Your quilt is God's love wrapped around a refugee's shoulders. Your School Kit accompanies a child into the classroom with the message, "There is hope and a future." Your Personal Care Kit tells its recipient, "You are precious and cared for." These gifts of love echo around the world in ways only God can make possible.

I was recently at an Ingathering in Michigan, where they told me about a truck driver who had arrived at a past Ingathering to transport a shipment of quilts to our warehouse. When he learned what was in the boxes, he was blown away. Years ago, he said, when he was living in a refugee camp, he received an LWR Quilt when he had nothing else left. That day he got a chance to bless others in the same way. That's not coincidence — that's God perfect love.

I, too, have been a beneficiary of the deep love of our community. In October, I visited the quilters at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. During my visit, they presented me with a gorgeous prayer quilt they had made just for me, to welcome me into my new role. What they didn't know was that my grandmother had passed away just weeks before. To me, that quilt was love — I could feel my grandmother in its stitches and the comfort of our Holy God hemming me in. When you put your faith in action, God knows just what to do with it.

I have enjoyed getting to know many of you personally over the last couple of months, and I am so grateful for the warm welcome you have extended to me. Melanie served this ministry and community with great passion and love, and I am committed to doing the same. Please contact me with questions, concerns or just to say hello at 800.597.5972. *In gratitude, Janel*

## LWR Notes for March

March is National Quilting Month and LWR is celebrating National Quilting Day on March 21 with many quilting celebrations. We are considering hosting a community event on Sunday, March 22, to share the joy of serving others through making quilts and care kits. Watch for updates in the Sunday bulletins and the weekly e-updates.

After the December and January break, we began quilting again on the third Tuesday of the month. Our next get together will be March 17. In February, we donated three children's quilts to the Fargo YWCA shelter. Fleece blankets are no longer being accepted overseas because the fibers of the fleece shed into the water and food supply. This, however, isn't a problem in the United States so all full-size fleece blankets will now be donated locally. For global relief, we will only be donating flannel receiving blankets and our quilts. We will do our part to protect others' health!

*Ellen Rittenhouse*





## Galchutt Lutheran Council Highlights—January 25, 2020



The Galchutt Lutheran Church council met on January 25, 2020. Present were Brice Bellmore (outgoing member), Pamela Krump (member), Marissa Moxness (member), Kendra Dockter (outgoing member), Jeff Miller (member), and Doug Johnson (member). The members not present were Daniel Dockter (new member) and Alex Paczkowski (new member). Brice called the meeting to order and asked for nominations for President. Marissa nominated Pamela for President. A motion that nomination cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Pamela was made by Marissa, with a second by Doug. Motion carried. Pamela asked for nominations for Vice President. Marissa nominated Doug for Vice President. A motion that nomination cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Doug was made by Marissa, with a second by Jeff. Motion carried. Pamela asked for nominations for Treasurer. Doug nominated Kendra for Treasurer. A motion that nomination cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Kendra was made by Doug, with a second by Marissa. Motion carried. Pamela asked for nominations for Secretary. Marissa nominated Alex for Secretary. A motion that nomination cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Pamela was made by Marissa, with a second by Jeff. Motion carried.

**New Business:** Intern Pastor Meggie discussed with the council the Lenten Service Schedule. February 26<sup>th</sup> @ Galchutt; March 4th @ Emmanuel; March 11th @ Galchutt; March 18th @ Emmanuel; March 25th @ Galchutt; April 1st @ Emmanuel; April 12th = Easter Services at Galchutt and Emmanuel. The Galchutt Sunday School Parents will be organizing a soup supper prior to each Galchutt service and the donation offerings will be given to the VBS fund. Next meeting will be held after a joint meeting with Emmanuel Council on February 23, 2020, at 11:30 AM. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Marissa, with a second by Jeff. Motion carried.

*Outgoing Secretary, Pamela Krump*

### We keep the following in our prayers:

- ◆ The family of Marlyne Hestdalen, who recently passed away;
- ◆ The family of Joan Miller, who recently passed away;
- ◆ The family of Morna Syvertsen, who recently passed away;
- ◆ Craig & Ila Myhre, on the passing of Craig's brother Kevin;
- ◆ Vicki Moen, as she deals with medical issues;
- ◆ Micah Moxness, as he continues to deal with medical issues; and
- ◆ Those who suffer from grief, addiction, or medical issues.



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

#### Emmanuel General Fund

- In memory of Waldo & Anna BJORKE
  - ⇒ John BJORKE
- In memory of Irene BURSHEIM
  - ⇒ Dennis & Lesley HULNE
  - ⇒ Ellen RITTENHOUSE
  - ⇒ Lucille Egger, Lavella Hansen, Vernon & Stacey Reynolds, & Danielle Warburton
  - ⇒ Michael & Lou Ann Lee



## Joint Council Highlights—February 23, 2020



The Galchutt Lutheran and the Emmanuel Lutheran Church councils met jointly on February 23, 2020. The members present for Galchutt were Pamela Krump, Doug Johnson, Daniel Dockter, Alex Paczkowski. The members present for Emmanuel were Kevin Paczkowski, Craig Syvertsen, Glenda Adams, Sharon Tschakert, Lesley Hulne and Intern Pastor Meggie. Pastor Meggie opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. Kevin called the meeting to order. There was no secretary report.

**Old Business:** No old business was discussed.

**New Business:** Lent season we will alternate services at both churches and begin this Wednesday with Ash Wednesday in Galchutt at 7 PM. Maundy Thursday will be in Galchutt at 6 PM with First Communion students. Good Friday will be at Emmanuel at 6 PM. Easter Services will be at 9 AM in Galchutt and 10:30 AM in Emmanuel.

The council's discussed summer services and agreed on having services every Sunday at both churches, except – June 21 and July 26, due to Meggie being on vacation. It was also agreed to cancel church on July 5th. Meggie was asked to conduct the All Faith Worship service on August 2nd which will be at the Aber Pavilion during Aber Days celebration. Pastor Meggie announced the Synod Assembly will be June 6-7. Kevin agreed to attend with Pastor Meggie. A Synod conference will be held in Lisbon or Gwinner on March 15th where nominations for new Bishop will be announced.

Pastor Meggie mentioned to the councils she is working on an internship project and proposed a kid's program with reduced meals for school kids at the Aber Community Hall one day a week during the summer months. All the council members agreed to support Meggie with this project and suggested she move forward with the planning.

Pastor Meggie suggested to the council members that we begin working on revising the constitutions, as a joint meeting first with someone from the synod office. She will reach out to Kevin, Pamela, and Kendra for a possible date we can meet with them.

Next joint meeting will be June 9th at 6 PM at Galchutt Church.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

*Galchutt Secretary, Alex Paczkowski*

### **It's time to begin collecting LWR Personal Care Kit items.**

Lutheran World Relief reports, "Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. ... The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty." There will be a box in each church in which you can place any monetary or item donations. Since we have had a donation of combs and have plenty of nail clippers, the following is needed to complete each kit:

- \*\*ONE light-weight **bath-size towel** (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended;
- \*\* TWO or three bath-size **bars of soap** equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping;
- \*\*ONE **adult-size toothbrush** in its original packaging (Multi-packs can be separated).

*Linda Kuruc*



## Emmanuel Lutheran Council Highlights—February 23, 2020



The Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council met on February 23, 2020, following the Joint Council meeting. In attendance were Kevin Paczkowski, Sharon Tschakert, Glenda Adams, Craig Syvertsen, and Lesley Hulne. The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Paczkowski.

**Secretary’s Report** was read and approved.

**Treasurer’s Report** was read and approved, noting a \$5,000.00 donation was received since the first of the year.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** We gave the Richland #44 School District permission to use the Fireside Room for tutoring on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 PM. The thermostat in the sanctuary is still not working properly; Austin will be notified again. Craig Syvertsen and Michael Lee will check into buying six new light fixtures for the entryway. A fund will be started for a heating system upgrade. The leak in the sacristy will be monitored during the spring thaw. A fund will be started for a Summer Youth Program that will be implemented. The Noisy Offering for April and May is designated for the Summer Youth Program. Cemetery funding and manpower is needed for monument maintenance. A notice will be put in the Echo and Bulletin for donations and volunteers. New Member Sunday will be March 22, 2020, with a Potluck. A Potluck will also be held on Palm Sunday, April 5th. The meeting was adjourned, and we closed with the Lord’s Prayer. The next meeting is on March 17th at 6:30 PM.

*Secretary, Lesley Hulne*

The Emmanuel Church heating/AC system is in serious need of an upgrade. It takes a heating specialist to know which of the many thermostats run which areas of the church. This past winter we have had issues with heating elements and thermostats and our backup heating system does not adequately heat the entire church. The council has decided that it is time to start a special fund for an upgrade in the near future to the current heating/AC system. Therefore, a new fund is being established called the “Heating System” fund. If you wish to donate to this fund, please notate “Heating System Fund” on your donation. Thank you!



**Heating System**

*Fund*



The Moxness Benefit is looking for bakers with items to sell for the bake sale at the benefit. If you can help by donating baked goods, the baked goods can be dropped off at the Wahpeton Community Center on Friday night, March 6th, from 6 PM—8 PM or Saturday, March 7th, from 9 AM—1 PM. If you have any questions or need help getting your goods to the Wahpeton Community Center, call Pamela Krump at (701) 640-0532.



Bake Sale



## Galchutt Council Highlights—February 23, 2020

The Galchutt Lutheran Church council met on February 23, 2020. The members present were Pamela Krump, Doug Johnson, Daniel Dockter, Alex Paczkowski and Intern Pastor Meggie. Pamela called the meeting to order. The minutes from the January 25th meeting were read by Alex. A motion was made by Doug, seconded by Alex to accept the Secretary’s report. Motion carried. The treasurer’s report was obtained from Kendra and reviewed by the council. A motion was made by Alex, seconded by Daniel to accept the Treasurer’s report. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** Pamela reported to the council that Kendra met with an accountant and lawyer about borrowing funds from St. Johns. Kendra drafted a document/agreement and sent it to Nadine Julson, Daniel Julson, and Simone to review. This final document was given to the council members to review. Daniel made a motion, “Per the annual meeting approval of the roofing project and borrowing of funds pending accounting and legal advice, I move to approve this loan document in the amount of \$20,000 between St. Johns Church and Galchutt Lutheran Church. This is a 2-year agreement and will be paid in full by December 2022.” Alex seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tecta America is scheduled to work on roof construction project Monday, February 24th and finish on Thursday February 27th. Pastor Meggie will update the congregation at the March 15th service about the project and suggest if anyone would like to review the legal agreement they can reach out to Pamela Krump.

**New Business:** Pamela assigned the following committees:

Property: Daniela Dockter, Doug Johnson, and Kyle Krump

Evangelism: all council members

Stewardship: all council members

Education: Pamela Krump, Marissa Moxness, and Kendra Dockter

Doug mentioned to the council the sewer drain field was frozen on Thursday. Ben Bush came and corrected the issue in time for the funeral on Friday. He suggested we have someone come back when it warms up to have them provide recommendations for a permanent resolution.

Next meeting will be on March 31st at 6 PM at Galchutt Church. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Doug, with a second by Daniel. Motion carried.

*Secretary, Alex Paczkowski*

### 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**This Echo is sponsored by:**

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

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# March 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 "Noisy Offering" Galchutt 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School</p> <p>Emmanuel 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>Colfax Park Board dinner</p>	2	3	<p>4 Bible Study 10 AM @ Aber Comm Hall</p> <p>Lenten service @ Emmanuel 7 PM Supper 6-6:45</p>	5	<p>6 Coffee with Kids at RHS</p>	<p>7 Moxness Benefit 5-7 PM Wahp Com Ctr</p>
<p>8 Galchutt 9:00 Worship</p> <p>Emmanuel 10:30 Worship</p> <p>Bethany Dinner</p>	9	10	<p>11 Bible Study 10 AM @ Aber Comm Hall</p> <p>Lenten service @ Galchutt 7 PM Supper 6-6:45</p> <p>7 PM AA Mtg @ Emmanuel</p>	12	13	<p>14 "Cod for God" Colfax Comm Ctr</p>
<p>15 Galchutt 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School</p> <p>Emmanuel 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship "Noisy Offering"</p> <p>LEGION DINNER</p>	<p>16 Quilts of Valor meets at Emmanuel noon- 7 PM</p>	<p>17 LWR Quilting at Emmanuel 9AM - 4PM</p> <p>Emmanuel Church Council Mtg 6:30 PM</p>	<p>18 Bible Study 10 AM @ Aber Comm Hall</p> <p>Lenten service @ Emmanuel 7 PM Supper 6-6:45</p>	<p>19 Wahpeton Conf Pastors Mtg @ Milnor 12:30PM</p> <p></p>	20	21
<p>22 Galchutt 9:00 Worship</p> <p>Emmanuel 10:30 Worship "New Member Sunday" &amp; Potluck</p> <p>** Possible LWR event</p>	23	24	<p>25 Bible Study 10 AM @ Aber Comm Hall</p> <p>Lenten service @ Galchutt 7 PM Supper 6-6:45</p> <p>7 PM AA Mtg @ Emmanuel</p>	26	27	28
<p>29 Galchutt 9:00 Worship</p> <p>Emmanuel 10:30 Worship</p>	30	<p>31 Galchutt Church Council Mtg 6 PM</p>		<p>Emmanuel Altar Guild for March: Deb Syvertsen</p>		

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

## Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry

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# The Echo

This month's issue of **The Echo**  
is sponsored by Judy Larson,  
in memory of Pete Larson and  
Mary Bernard Larson.

## CHURCH COUNCILS

### GALCHUTT

\* Pamela Loff  
Doug Johnson  
Daniel Dockter  
Jeff Miller  
Alex Paczkowski  
Marissa Moxness

### EMMANUEL

\* Kevin Paczkowski  
Glenda Adam  
Lesley Hulne  
Jessica Kappes  
Craig Syvertsen  
Sharon Tschakert  
Fred Tol

\* Denotes Congregation President

Just for Laughs.....

