

# The Echo

July 2020



## “But First...”

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

He said to another man, “Follow me.” But that one replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God” (Luke 9: 51, 57-62 NIV).

“But first.” Such a quick and easy answer, isn’t it? We utter it without even thinking, and to so many requests for our time and our attention. Every day is full of “but firsts” and so I begin to consider how much I have missed over the years when I uttered these words: “Sure, but first, I need to finish this article.” “That sounds great! But first, I have to prepare more lessons.” “I would love to! But first, let me finish this.”

In Luke’s Gospel, “but first” will not do anymore. And why? Jesus is headed to Jerusalem. And we all know what Jerusalem means.

This story invites us to consider our “but first” responses. How many times are we asked to serve and we say, “Sure! But first...”? How often do we think about spending time with the poor and needy and we say, “But first...”? How often do we feel called to take care of God’s creation and we say, “But first...”? How often is someone sick or in need and we promise to respond and say, “But first...”? How often does God call us to spend time with him and we say, “But first...”?

Our lives are full of “But firsts,” stalling and suspending the urgent issues of what it means to be a Christian. There are way more “but firsts” than we are willing to admit. We rationalize them as strategic, best practices, or following protocol. We justify them as necessary decisions, just balancing life, or keeping sanity.

How often does “but first” come before “of course” or “I’m ready”? May you be strengthened in faith today. There are many things that cry for your attention, but first, consider the Lord.

*Peace, Intern Pastor 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-Emmanuel Ministry Smart Restart

*We are so excited to gather again. The following guidelines are meant to keep us healthy and safe. Please read and following our guidelines.*

### For the time being, we WILL:

- Wear and encourage wearing masks
- Limit singing when indoors
- Keep family groups 6ft. apart
- Wash and sanitize our hands often
- Encourage immunocompromised individuals to proceed with caution
- Prop open front doors when possible
- Minimize bathroom use

### For the time being, we will NOT:

- Shake hands
- Have Coffee Hour
- Have a children's message

### As you enter the service:

- Grab a bulletin: *please only touch one!*
- Drop offering in provided plate
- Grab a communion kit
  - Please keep your kit in the pew with you. Intern Pr. Meggie will bless all the elements and give directions when it is time to commune.

### BY ALL MEANS:

- Stay home if you are ill or have been around someone who is!
- Stay home if you are anxious about coming
  - Intern Pr. Meggie will continue recording sermons for delivery online and on TV

Thank you for helping keep everyone safe and healthy! Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord!



**There will be no worship services on July 5th and on July 26th.**

**Pastor Meggie will be on vacation from July 24-31.**



## 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 November & December 2020 and February 2021 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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**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).**



## Time and Talents

Sometimes we associate stewardship with only the giving of money. However, stewardship is much more. Even though we all have different financial situations, we have the same number of hours in our week. How we use those hours is what makes the difference. The fact is, we are all different. Nevertheless, we have all been blessed with different talents and skills. God wants us to honor Him with those gifts. God gave us those gifts to serve Him and to serve others. The apostle Paul phrased it this way: “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully” (Romans 12:5-8 NIV).

Each of us has unique talents and abilities. Many of you are already using those talents or skills for God’s glory without even realizing it or maybe there are things you can do that could help the church and community. Each of us has something to give. As the familiar saying states, “many hands make light work.” Some of you (not me) were blessed with being beautiful singers and if that is your gift, share it. There are so many things, some you may not think of as talents, that you can share or maybe have shared in the past with those around you. By looking at the below listing, you will see you maybe already have or can in the future share your talents:

- Reading scripture, being an usher, serving communion, or being a greeter
- Teaching or helping with bible study, vacation bible school, or Sunday school
- Serving on altar guild, church council, newsletter squad, or special committees
- Serving coffee after worship services (after COVID-19 subsides)
- Praying for our pastor, councils, and members
- Making prayer shawls, school kits, LWR quilts
- Visiting or calling on the shut-ins or those grieving
- Providing or delivering items to the food pantry
- Helping with chores inside and outside the church during the summer and winter



These are just a few ways you can help. “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving” (Colossians 3:23–24 NIV). And when we use our talents to honor Him and to bless others, we’re doing just that. As we get back to the “new normal” routine for our worship services, how can you use your time and talents to serve the Lord?

*LouAnn Lee, Editor*

## How Will We Use Our Freedom?

In 2000, Cornealious Anderson was sentenced to 13 years for robbery. The 23-year-old was released on bail and told to await orders to show up to prison. But due to a clerical error, those orders never came. Some people might have taken advantage of such freedom and committed more crimes. But Anderson started a business, coached youth football and volunteered at church, earning respect in his community. Thirteen years later, when Missouri officials discovered the error and put Anderson behind bars, an online petition called for his release. A judge agreed that Anderson was a changed man and, again, he was freed.

What would you do with such undeserved freedom? What do we do with the unmerited freedom God grants us despite our sin, and with the freedoms we celebrate on July 4? May we follow Anderson’s example and use our freedoms — social and spiritual — to serve others. —*adapted from Homiletics*

# LWR News

We are back to quilting again after a COVID isolating break. Our production for this year will be down but we are planning for have 20 to 30 quilts ready for shipment this fall. Your donations of materials make this possible and are much appreciated by those in need around the world. Many groups have taken time to work on the LWR Face Mask Challenge so our quilts will be welcomed in the warehouse where needed.

Watch for further information in the months ahead about the gathering of items for School Kits and Personal Care Kits.

**July quilting will be on July 7th, please note the change of date!**

*Ellen Rittenhouse*



QUILTING GROUP

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



**Galchutt Building Fund:**

- Donavon & Jean Loff
  - ◊ In memory of Mary Smedberg
- David Fixen
  - ◊ In memory of David Blumer

**Emmanuel Furnace Fund:**

- Donald Nelson
  - ◊ In memory of grandparents Ole & Karen Nelson and their children Mathea, Knute, Lewis and Thora
  - ◊ In memory of Irene Burshiem

**Emmanuel General Fund**

- Donald Nelson
  - ◊ In memory of Morna Syvertsen
- Jeffrey Syvertsen (sale of prints)

**Emmanuel Landscaping Fund**

- Viola Merchant
  - ◊ In memory of Jane Miller

## The “wow!” factor

After the final notes concluded at a recent symphony performance in Boston, the conductor hadn’t yet lowered his baton when a child exclaimed, “Wow!” The break in protocol, magnified by excellent acoustics, didn’t upset the participants or audience, however. Instead, several later said it brought them great joy. One even called the moment life-changing.

The incident was especially meaningful because the child, a 9-year-old named Ronan, has autism and is generally nonverbal. Music, his family says, tends to attract his interest and make him happy. When symphony officials learned Ronan’s identity, they arranged a private performance so he could meet some musicians.

How often do you shout “Wow!” — in a good way — at what you see and hear? You may tend to do so on vacation or while observing God’s natural wonders, but what about during your day-to-day life? Think about the people you encounter and their talents — and your own. When have these sparked a “Wow!” of thanks to God?

Every blessing, large or small, is a wow-moment — a gift from God that warrants our praise.

*—adapted from HomeTouch Ministry*

## Galchutt Lutheran Council Highlights—June 9, 2020

Galchutt Lutheran council met on June 9th via Zoom. Members present were Pamela Krump, Alex Paczkowski, Doug Johnson, Jeff Miller, and Intern Pastor Meggie. Alex read last month's minutes, there was no treasurer's report. There was discussion to possibly have the Galchutt Sunday School kids get together this summer with Pastor Meggie since there is no VBS this year. Pamela will talk with Kendra about getting the kids together. Doug has been checking on the church. Everything looked great, except there was a little water near the drain of the dehumidifier, he emptied the dehumidifier. Doug Kuruc had issues getting the lawn mower to start and he brought the mower in to get fixed. Pastor Meggie will be on vacation July 26th. The meeting ended with the Lords Prayer. Next meeting July 13th at 6 PM at Galchutt Church.

*Alex Paczkowski, Secretary*



## GEM Joint Council Highlights—June 9, 2020

Galchutt Lutheran and Emmanuel Lutheran met jointly via Zoom on June 9, 2020. Members present were Jeff Miller, Doug Johnson, Pamela Krump, and Alex Paczkowski from Galchutt, and Fred Tol, Kevin Paczkowski, and Lesley Hulne from Emmanuel, and also Intern Pastor Meggie. Pastor Meggie started with a devotion and prayer. Pastor Meggie informed the council that Pastor Jule from Our Saviors/Richland will be on vacation for the next few weeks so recordings for online services have been done for June 14th and June 21st. Galchutt and Emmanuel have decided to open June 14 with Emmanuel outdoors and Galchutt indoors and starting June 21st both churches will be indoors. Pastor Meggie will still record readings/sermons to send out to the congregation that chooses to not participate in person. There will be no services on July 5th. Reimbursement for the Kleingartners was discussed for their services the past few months. Emmanuel decided \$500 and Galchutt will match for a total of \$1,000. Pastor Meggie is done with her internship in September but will continue her schooling until December. The councils have asked Pastor Meggie if she would be willing to fill in for the 3 months and she agreed. Pamela and LouAnn will work with Shar Gumke from the synod and work out the details for a month-by-month contract and to keep Pastor Meggie as long as possible.

## Please keep the following in your prayers:

- ◆ Joan Miller Hansen, whose husband Tom recently passed away;
- ◆ Jessica and Mark Kappes, for the recent death of Mark's mother, Maggie Kappes;
- ◆ Penny Gylland, as the doctors try to find answers to her health issues;
- ◆ Micah Moxness and Vicki Moen, as they continue to deal with health issues;
- ◆ Those suffering or recovering from illness whose names are not known;
- ◆ Those who have suffered economic loss due to this pandemic;
- ◆ Our community and nation as we deal with this pandemic; and
- ◆ The leaders of our nation and our churches. God bless them all!



## Emmanuel Lutheran Council Highlights—June 1, 2020



The Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council met on June 1, 2020. In attendance were Sharon Tschakert, Craig Syvertsen, Kevin Paczkowski, Fred Tol, Jessica Kappes, Lesley Hulne and Pastor Meggie. Pastor Meggie gave a timely devotion concerning our role in the social unrest occurring in our country.

The Secretary's report was given by Lesley and approved in a motion by Craig and seconded by Sharon, motion carried. The Treasurer's report submitted by Lou Ann was reviewed. Jessica moved to accept the report with a second by Fred, motion carried.

The Pastor's report from Meggie was given. She has been providing recorded services through RRC, Facebook and YouTube. There was one burial in May. She shared the Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry Smart Restart guidelines for reopening our church.

**Committee Reports:** **Stewardship:** No Report. **Education:** No Report. **Worship:** No Report.

**Property:** AA is welcome to use our church building for their meeting at their discretion. The council approved buying a 250-gallon propane tank for \$300 from Dakota Plains. It will be put on a cement pad. Kevin will get estimates for overhauling the heating system. Fred will get estimates for replacing the window in the Fireside Room and the office. Craig will find new lighting for the Church Entry. LouAnn Lee is willing to redo the landscaping around the church. She will do it in phases as funds permit. Jessica made a motion to give LouAnn our blessing on the landscaping project. Sharon seconded the motion and it carried. **Old Business:** none.

**New Business:** We will have an outdoor Church Service in the Church yard on June 14. Everyone will bring their own lawn chair and there will be no hymnals. It will be held in the church if the weather is inclement. We will resume Services in the Church on June 21. We will then have services every Sunday during the summer, except July 5. Electronic services will be provided for people who are uncomfortable attending worship in public. Discussion was held on a monetary gift for Kliengartner's in appreciation of their time and expertise in the production of the electronic services provided during the Pandemic. An amount of \$500.00 was suggested, but we will work with Galchutt on an amount. We will reimburse Meggie for her Alb at the cost of \$400. A motion was made by Craig, seconded by Sharon motion carried. Meggie would be interested in a month to month contract in September following her internship until she graduates in December. \$800 has been collected through the sale of prints donated from Jeff Syvertsen. We will have a virtual joint meeting with Galchutt on Tuesday, June 9. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, at 6:30 PM. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

*Secretary, Lesley Hulne*

## THE WEIGHT OF HATE

Word lovers, delight! The lexicon has tongue-twisting terms that describe hatred for just about anything. According to *Mental Floss*, if you're a misodotakleidist, for example, you hate practicing the piano. Misogelasts hate laughter, while misopogonists hate beards and misophonists hate certain irritating sounds. There's even a word for someone who hates hatred (in the form of war or strife): a misopolemist. Some of these words may make us smile, yet hate is deadly serious. No matter the target, hatred weighs us down and distracts us from Godly living.

That's why Paul instructs followers of Jesus to "put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice" (Ephesians 4:31, NRSV). Once that hateful weight is gone, we'll be freed up to "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you" (verse 32).

- taken from Newsletter Newsletter July 2020



# July 2020



Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

			1 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel	2	3	4 Independence Day  
5 No worship services	6	7 Quilting at Emmanuel 9AM - 4PM  Emmanuel Council Meeting 6:30 PM	8 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel	9	10	11
12 Galchutt 9 AM Worship  Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship	13	14 Galchutt Council Meeting 6 PM	15 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel	16	17	18 
19 Galchutt 9 AM Worship  Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship	20 Quilts of Valor @ Emmanuel 1-7 PM	21	22 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel	23	24 Pastor Meggie on vacation	25 Pastor Meggie on vacation
26 No worship services  Pastor Meggie on vacation	27 Pastor Meggie on vacation	28 Pastor Meggie on vacation	29 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel  Pastor Meggie on vacation	30 Pastor Meggie on vacation	31 Pastor Meggie on vacation	

**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      Galchutt Lutheran Church  
P. O. Box 119                      105 Galchutt Avenue  
Abercrombie, ND 58001        Galchutt, ND 58075

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# The Echo

This month's issue of **The Echo**  
is sponsored by JoAnn Flaa,  
In loving memory of John & Gusta Loff,  
Jim & Esther Flaa, and John L. Flaa

## CHURCH COUNCILS

### GALCHUTT

\* Pamela Krump  
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.....

