

The Echo

September 2020



What do you hope for?

“Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.5 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him” (Genesis 32:24-25).

If Abraham is considered the Father of all nations, then Jacob ought to be considered the Father of all swindlers. Even the name “Jacob” means “deceiver.” And this is not incidental. Jacob is to the biblical story what Al Capone is the American story. Somewhat legendary – but none the less a crook!

That is until he reaches a river called Jabbok. At the river Jabbok, Jacob finds out his brother Esau is on his way to him with 400 armed men. Ringing in Jacob’s ears is the last words he shared with his brother – the promise of Jacob’s death! He can’t go back to his father-in-law Laban; Laban is as crooked as he is. He can’t go forward because Esau is coming with an army. So here Jacob sits on the banks of the Jabbok River.

To his credit, Jacob spends a little time thinking about the mess he is in and sends his wives and children across the river without him. It is time to figure out what to do. Perhaps a little quiet time will bring clarity. You know, “Just a little talk with Yahweh makes it right.”

I don’t know if Jacob invented the phrase “between a rock and a hard place,” but that is where he found himself. He was trapped and fighting with his past, present, and future. It is what we would call “a come to Jesus moment.” And fortunately, Jesus showed up. Jacob will later say he wrestled with God. Hosea will say Jacob wrestled with an angel of the Lord. But Christian theologians will most often say Jacob fought with the Son of Man and the Son of God.

Jacob wrestled with God all night. FACE TO FACE! According to Max Lucado, “On the banks of Jabbok, he rolled in the mud of his life. And because Jacob wanted it so badly, God honored his determination. God gave him a new name and a new promise and a limp.”

(continued on page 3)



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EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Congratulations to Maddie Syvertsen and Carli Niemi who were confirmed at Emmanuel on August 2nd. Congratulations to Teddy Flaa who was confirmed at Emmanuel on August 30th. We welcome these three to our faith family at Emmanuel.



Emmanuel-Galchutt members: Join us on Sunday, September 27th, at 10:30 AM for a *joint* worship service at the Abercrombie Park Pavilion to celebrate the completion of the internship for Intern Pastor Meggie Bjertness. The kids who have just completed their mini-VBS experience will also be singing during that service. No potluck dinner but cake will be served.

“A mini-VBS Experience”

With the unfortunate onset of COVID-19, VBS was cancelled this past June at Galchutt Lutheran. Our Education Committee has met and would like to offer a *similar* experience to our Sunday School kids early this fall. We have set September 24th-27th for a mini-VBS experience, tied in with Sunday School. The plan will be to meet the evening of Thursday, September 24th, during the day on Saturday the 26th, and have the kids present songs and information during the joint worship service on September 27th at the Abercrombie Pavilion.

This will be a very small event limited to the kids of our two congregations. We will use a VBS format to include music, games, lessons, and crafts with the following theme:

Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor, invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God. Kids will take on the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation—at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters, and explore how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God.

Contact Kendra Dockter with any questions.

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.

(Pastor's Article continued from page 1)

As a human being standing before God, as a church seeking to do God's will, and as a nation trying to figure a lot of things out, we stand where Jacob stood. And it is "O.K." to struggle with God. All of us, at one time or another, struggle with God. And it is always an awkward encounter. When we are struggling with God, we can do one of two things: run or wrestle. Max Lucado challenges all of us when he says,

***"Many choose to run. They brush it off with a shrug of rationalization.
Jacob finally figured that out and decided to face God and self.
As a result, his example is one worthy of imitation.
The best way to deal with our past is to hitch up our pants, roll up our sleeves,
and face it head-on —no more buck-passing or scapegoating.
No more glossing over or covering up. No more games.
We need a confrontation with our Master."***

So, my encouragement to you this day: cross the creek and struggle with God. Wrestle about school and travel, elections, coronavirus, and the future. Wrestle with God, and God will wrestle with you. And yes, it will likely change your life for good!

Peace, Intern Pastor Meggie



We keep the following in our prayers:

- ◆ The Kuruc family, due to the recent passing of Doug's brother Jeff Kuruc;
- ◆ Our youth who just recently confirmed their faith;
- ◆ Our students, teachers, and staff at our schools as they start this new school year with the threat of COVID around us;
- ◆ The members of our congregations, may they remain healthy during this crisis;
- ◆ All those who grieve the loss of a loved one or deal with health issues or addiction;
- ◆ Pastor Meggie as she completes her internship and studies; and
- ◆ Our congregations as we prayerfully search for our future pastor.

Note the changes!



Rally Sunday will be held at Galchutt Lutheran on Sunday, September 13th.

Sunday School will be held at 9:30 AM .

Please come to Galchutt Lutheran at 10:30 AM for worship.

Because of COVID, we will not be hosting our Rally Sunday service at St. Johns. The meal to follow will not be potluck. Rather, one family will be buying, making, and serving all the food. All are encouraged to contribute free will offerings to help cover the cost of the meal. We anticipate the cost to be around \$100. Please stay as you feel comfortable. For those who stay home for their health or the health of a loved one, we celebrate with you in spirit! Please know, these plans may change as needed.

Emmanuel Worship Service will be held at 9 AM on Sunday, September 13th.



Hope is a part of everyone's life whether we realize it or not. We all hope for certain things at times. Sometimes the things we hope for changes over a period of time. For instance, in April and May I find myself hoping that my garden will be a thriving one. By the end of August my hopes have changed – my hopes focus on wishing the green beans would just end!!

But what really is hope? According to Merriam-Webster, "hope" is defined as to cherish a desire with anticipation; to want something to happen or be true; or to desire with expectation of obtainment or fulfillment. Merriam-Webster's definition makes "hope" seem close to "wish." The definition of hope can differ depending on the person. Some people speak about hope in a spiritual context, believing good things will happen with faith in God. For others, it might mean always looking on the bright side or always hoping for the best.

In the Bible, hope is explained as the confident expectation of what God has promised and his faithfulness to his believers. It is the proper reaction to the promises of God. Abraham is a prime example. Even though he was very old, he had confidence that God would fulfill his promises. "Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, 'So shall your offspring be'" (Romans 4:18). Without hope in God's promises to us, life loses its meaning and there is no hope in death. When Lazarus died, Jesus said to his sister Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." (John 11:25–26 NKJV). Sometimes, with all the terrible things going on in the world, we may question God's plan for us. "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). We can rest in the confidence that God does have a plan for hope and a future to those who believe in him. Blessings to you this fall season.

Lou Ann Lee

The following was sent to me by Donald Nelson, friend of our congregations. I've heard it before but it is something to lighten your day. The newsletter is a service to all our members and friends and I look forward to receiving articles you think we may want to print in a future edition. Enjoy!

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark...

One: Don't miss the boat.

Two: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Three: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Four: Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

Five: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Six: Build your future on high ground.

Seven: For safety sake, travel in pairs.

Eight: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

Nine: When you're stressed, float a while.

Ten: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

Eleven: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.



**The woodpecker may
need to go!**

Galchutt Lutheran Council Highlights—August 10, 2020



The Galchutt Church Council met on August 10th at 6:30 PM at Galchutt Church.

Members present were Pamela Krump, Alex Paczkowski, Doug Johnson, Jeff Miller, Marissa Moxness, Daniel Dockter, and Intern Pastor Meggie. Pamela called the meeting to order, Pastor Meggie led with a devotion and prayer. Alex read last month minutes. Jeff motioned to approved minutes with a Marissa second. Pamela presented the treasury report. Alex made a motion to accept with Jeff second.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no church on August 16th, Rally Sunday will be September 13th, ideas were proposed about having potluck, decision will be made at a later date. There will be a celebration for Pastor Meggie at the Pavilion in Aber on September 27th. Bible school is scheduled for September 24-27 with a program the 27th. A meeting will be set up to revise the constitution for the church. A baptism is planned for September 6th. First Communion class will be September 10th with the first communion given during Rally Sunday. Live streaming on Facebook of the church service will continue.

NEW BUSINESS: Coffee will be provided again this fall but will hold off on food at this time. Packets for communion in the pews will continue. Contract for Pastor Meggie filling in until she is assigned was presented to Pastor Meggie and she signed and approved to fill in as Pastor. Daniel made motion to adjourn with Jeff second. Ended the meeting with the Lord’s prayer. Next meeting September 8th at 6:30 PM at Galchutt Church.

Alex Paczkowski, Secretary

Thank you to the following for their recent donations:

St. John’s Cemetery Fund

- Marilyn Peterson Baumann
 - ◆ In memory of Hollis Quamme

Galchutt Lutheran Church

- Diane Ista
 - ◆ In memory of Morna Syvertsen

Emmanuel Lutheran General Fund

- Melanie Jensen—Thrivent Choice funds
- Scott Jensen—Thrivent Choice fund
- Sally Caderet
- Wes & Shirley Berg
 - ◆ In memory of Gary Newton

Emmanuel Landscaping Fund

- Judy Larson & Glenda Adams
- Susan Rothwell

Emmanuel Furnace Fund

- Marlene Hestdalen memorials

Emmanuel Quilting Fund

- Rosie Adair

Emmanuel Cemetery Fund

- Diane Johnson



Anyone who has been through Abercrombie this summer has seen me working on the landscaping around Emmanuel Church. I offered to do this

project using the funds that were in our landscape fund. However, I need to thank Glenda Adams and Judy Larson who offered to donate additional funds so I could complete the project this year. Thank you also to Craig Syvertsen and David Hammond who helped me remove the 25-year-old shrubs. Craig and I tried to get them out with our skid steer but David Hammond’s backhoe was needed to finally remove them. A huge thank you also goes to my grandchildren, Hans and Ella, who spent many, many hours helping Grandma wash all that rock!! If they had not helped me, I would probably still be washing rock in November. A final thank-you to John Besette for stopping and spending a few hours washing and replacing rocks with Ella and me. It takes a team!

Lou Ann Lee

Emmanuel Lutheran Council Highlights— August 11, 2020



The Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council met on August 11, 2020. In attendance were Sharon Tschakert, Craig Syvertsen, Kevin Paczkowski, Jessica Kappes, Lesley Hulne and Pastor Meggie. Pastor Meggie gave devotions. The Secretary's report was given by Lesley and approved in a motion by Craig and second by Sharon. The Treasurer's report submitted by Lou Ann was reviewed. Jessica moved to accept the report with a second by Sharon, and the motion carried to approve the Treasurer's Report.

The Pastor's report from Meggie was given. Maddie Syvertsen and Carli Niemi were confirmed at Emmanuel in August. Teddy Flaa will be confirmed at a later date. There will be 2 Baptisms in September. Emmanuel will have a joint service with Galchutt on September 27th at the Abercrombie Park Pavilion. It will include the VBS children singing, a tribute to Meggie and her internship, and cake served following the service. Emmanuel will switch service times with Galchutt on September 13th. Emmanuel will have Sunday Services at 9:00 AM on September 13th. Coffee Fellowship was discussed and it was decided to resume coffee after services on September 13th. Those serving coffee are invited to share store bought goodies only. Continuous Communion will be started in September instead of the packets we are currently using. Meggie is continuing the live stream of the Sunday Service.

Committee Reports: Stewardship: No Report. Education: Jessica has reached out to families regarding Sunday School and we will revisit it this fall. Galchutt is having VBS on Sept 24, 26 and 27 for any interested children of the two congregations.

Property: The window bids were \$200 more per window than stated because they discovered rotting under the window sills. We still need to get together with Austin about the HVAC system. The cement pad will be poured this fall under the propane tank.

Worship: The half hour Sunday Worship is working out. Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: A motion was made by Sharon to extend a month to month contract to Meggie, as her internship comes to a close. It was seconded by Jessica and carried. Discussion was had on starting our Raffle early and Kevin will contact Tessa.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tues September 1st at 6:30 PM. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Lesley Hulne, Secretary

LWR NEWS: As many of you have heard, 47,000 quilts and kits were destroyed this summer in the explosion in Lebanon. We were fortunate that our quilts and kits were not shipped, at least as far as we know. The school kits from 2019 were shipped to Senegal on March 24, 2020, to serve the students in that region.



We continue to make quilts each month thanks to generous donations of materials for piecing tops, sheets for backings, and fillers or batting for warmth. We are on course to send 30+ quilts this fall. We will have many school kits thanks to the generous donations by our members and the efforts of the 4-H club to gather and pack the backpacks. There is still time to bring school items to the churches. Items needed are: crayons boxes of 24, unsharpened pencils, ball point pens (not gel pens), 70 sheet notebooks, pencil sharpeners, rubber erasers, blunt kids scissors. The "back to school" sales are on so this is the time to stock up for your family needs and for LWR.

In September the quilters will be working on September 15 from 9 AM to 3 PM at Emmanuel. All are welcome.

Ellen Rittenhouse



September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Emmanuel Council Meeting 6:30 PM	2 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel	3	4	5
6 Galchutt 9 AM Worship with baptism Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship	7 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	8 Galchutt Council Meeting 6:30 PM	9 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel	10	11	12
13 NOTE TIMES!! Galchutt 9:30AM S.S. 10:30 Worship Emmanuel 9 AM Worship	14	15 LWR Quilting at Emmanuel 9AM-3PM	16 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel	17	18 ECHO articles due	19
20 Galchutt 9 AM Worship Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship	21 RRQ QOV meets at Emmanuel Church 1-7 PM	22	23 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel Confirmation at O.S. 1:30 PM	24 VBS for GEM kids (see p.2) 6 PM	25	26 VBS for GEM kids (see p.2) 9 AM
27 Joint Worship Service at Aber Park Pavilion @ 10:30 AM (see p. 2) with 2 baptisms	28	29	30 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel Confirmation at O.S. 3:30 PM			

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The Echo

This month's issue of **The Echo**
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In memory of Steve Moen

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- Doug Johnson
- Daniel Dockter
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- 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.....

