

The Echo

November 2020



The Housepainter

There once was a housepainter who was always looking to save a buck. So, he would often thin his paint to make it go further. One day, a local church decided to do a big restoration and this painter put in a bid. He got the job because his price was so competitive.

Just as he was finishing the job, the painter was up on a scaffold when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder. The sky opened and rain poured down, washing the watery paint off the church. The painter was knocked down onto the lawn, surrounded by puddles of his thinned and useless paint.

Fearing this was judgement from the Almighty, he got on his knees and cried, "Forgive me! What should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke: "Repaint! Repaint and thin no more!"

What does your faith look like? Is it thick, vibrant, and full of life? Or, like the paint, is it thinned and useless? Has it been watered down so much that the rain, wind, and storms of life blow it away? Or can it withstand the brokenness of the world?

Either way, our gracious God calls us to "repaint." We are all sinners who fall short of the glory of God, but through repentance God will always wash away our sins and restore us to new life once again.

Peace, Meggie



I just wanted to let you know about a major milestone in my life. Earlier in October, I was officially assigned to a region in the United States where I look for my First Call. **I have been assigned to the NW MN Synod of the ELCA.** Wahoo! This means I might stay as close as Moorhead or Breckenridge, or move as far south as Alexandria, as far west as Bemidji, or as far north as Lake of the Woods. However, this does mean that I will be leaving Galchutt and Emmanuel eventually.

For the moment, this changes very little about our time together. I simply will transition from "Intern" Pastor to "Interim" Pastor. As per my contract with you, once I accept a call or you call a pastor, *then* we begin our last 30 days working together. Until then, I am grateful for the work that we have done and will keep doing together.

Take care. I am already praying for your future minister, even as I pray for my next congregation.

Peace, Interim Pastor Meggie



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EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS!



November
1st -
*Daylight
Saving Time
Change*



November 11, 2020



God's Acre Sunday will be held at Galchutt Lutheran on November 22nd with Sunday School at 9:45 AM, Worship at 10:30 AM followed by a potluck dinner and special congregational meeting. Please note time change!
EMMANUEL WORSHIP WILL BE AT 9 AM.

HOLIDAY PLANTERS & BUNDLES FROM RICHLAND #44 PTO

PREORDER UNTIL NOV. 16TH & GET THEM BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS
TEXT/EMAIL ORDERS TO JEN ERDAHL 701-899-1957 OR
JEN_WITT88@HOTMAIL.COM

14" DECORATIVE PLANTERS \$50
INCLUDES PLANTER, GREENS & FILLERS



BRANCH & FLOWER COLORS CAN BE CUSTOMIZED FOR ADDITIONAL \$5

BUNDLE \$20
INCLUDES 10 GREENS TO MAKE YOUR OWN PLANTER ARRANGEMENT



ON-SITE PLANTER DESIGN ALSO AVAILABLE PLEASE CALL/TEXT/EMAIL FOR A QUOTE

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.

How's Your Giving Life?

When I first felt called to seminary, I looked in my bank account. "Lord," I prayed, "these might be some meager years, but I think I can pay my way through seminary without debt."

To my great surprise, there were other people in the world who *also* thought I should go to seminary and were willing to help cover the cost of tuition. So, I applied to scholarship after scholarship and, wouldn't you know, a few months before I started, I had enough tuition money to attend seminary **AT NO COST TO ME!**

I was taken aback. I was grateful, sure, but confused. I already had the money to pay for seminary.... Why should I get to go free when so many other classmates get strapped and burdened with debt? Thinking of how to express my gratitude, I turned to scripture:

- Malachi 3:10: "Bring to the storehouse a full tenth of what you earn . . . Test me in this," says the Lord, the All-Powerful. 'I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour out all the blessings you need'"
- Luke 18:29-30: "Truly I tell you . . . no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in eternal life to come."
- 1 Corinthians 15:58: "Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."



Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord ...

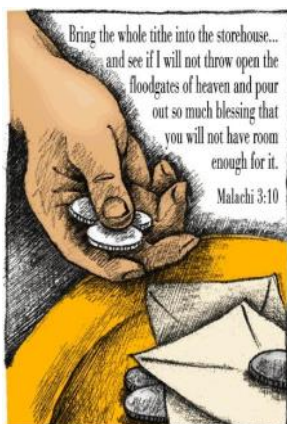
1 Corinthians 15:58

I made a crazy choice. I decided to pay the generosity forward. I agreed that every time my tuition bill read \$0, I would take the amount I should have owed, and donate it. My hope was that God would multiply what I offered, and my prayer was that God would take care of me even when it hurt to give away this quantity of money.

Did it hurt to donate this kind of money? Yes. Was it worth it? Absolutely.

Scripture reminds us that "everything is God's." In Matthew 22, Jesus is asked whether we should pay taxes or not. Seeing the image of the Roman Emperor on the coin, Jesus answers, 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's. But give to God what is God's.' Wow! This begs the question: what ISN'T God's? The answer is obvious: everything is God's! All the money you make, each breath you take, and each step on the way is an opportunity from God.

Now, God is not a merciless tyrant. He does not take all that you have and leave you with nothing. But God DOES promise that, when we offer what little we have, God *will multiply it* for the good of all.



Hear me well: I'm not telling you to make crazy giving choices or even to follow my example. I wasn't able to sustain that level of giving all the way through seminary, so I adjusted after the first year. My husband and I have since settled for donating at the recommended "10% of what you earn." But we both learned a valuable lesson and I hope you can learn from it too: when we give to God what is His, God will multiply it for the good of all.

Now comes the tricky part for you. You are the only one who knows what *you* have, what *you* have earned this year, and what the needs are in *your* community. Perhaps you already have a giving plan. Perhaps you don't. Perhaps your plan reflected a time when you made more, or made less, or your organization of choice could be sustained with less money.

("How's Your Giving Life" - continued from page 3)

If you've never started, I recommend this:

1. **Evaluate what you have and decide an amount to give.** "10% of what you earn" is good recommendation, but it certainly takes some budget adjusting. If that's too much, start with 1% of your income, and then increase by 1% every 6 months until you reach 10%.
2. **Choose a need** in the world that is important to you and find an organization that supports it. This could be abuse centers, hospice care, homelessness, hunger, education, Christian leadership training, or anything else!
3. **Don't forget your church.** If you value the ministry provided by your congregation, they too will only survive on the donations you give.
4. **Give and give generously.**

The tricky part of American society is that the organizations who work for the poor and needy primarily exist on the donations of others. In light of this, remember: *only you can decide what is appropriate to give.*

May the Lord multiply what you give back to him and supply you with all you need.

Peace, Interim Pr. Meggie



Galchutt Lutheran Council Highlights

Galchutt Lutheran Church Council met on October 12th at 6:30 PM at Galchutt Lutheran Church. Members present were Pamela Krump, Alex Paczkowski, Doug Johnson, Jeff Miller, Marissa Moxness, and Intern Pastor Meggie. Pamela called the meeting to order. Pastor Meggie started meeting with a devotion, scripture reading, and prayer. Pastor Meggie announced to the council that she has been assigned to the NW MN Synod of the ELCA. Alex read last month's secretary report, Jeff approved the report and Marissa seconded. There was no treasurer's report. **PASTOR REPORT:** Rally Sunday was held at Galchutt. A joint service was held at the Aber Pavilion in September. Six students took the 1st Communion class. There were 14 kids at VBS. Confirmation started with 3 students from Galchutt. Pastor Meggie would like to go over the membership list at an upcoming meeting. Pastor Meggie had a total of 298 miles for the month of September. Alex accepted the mileage report and Pamela seconded. **OLD BUSINESS:** VBS went very well and everyone had fun. Kyle Krump took home the pulpit light to fix. There was another bat in the church. Sticky traps were placed and someone will be coming to help Doug install the bat house on the steeple. **NEW BUSINESS:** Council reviewed the revision of the constitution of the church that Pamela Krump, Kendra Dockter, and Pastor Meggie redid with the help of the synod. Jeff made a motion with Doug second to accept the constitution and bylaws of the church. Church congregation will now vote on Gods Acre and the annual meeting to approve the changes. God's acre has been scheduled for November 22 at Galchutt Church with potluck following. The annual meeting will be held on January 23 at 9 AM at Galchutt Church. Pamela gave an update on the call committee. They interviewed Corey Lange who served as pulpit supply on October 11. Next meeting is November 18 at 6:30 PM. Alex made a motion to adjourn meeting, Pamela seconded. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Alex Paczkowski, Secretary



Many people associate stewardship with fall. Maybe this is because we live in a farming community, the harvest is almost complete and, hopefully, the farm income is adequate. As a church treasurer, I absolutely understand we need steady offerings to survive. However, stewardship is also something more. I wish I could take credit for the following material but credit goes to the ELCA's website.

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP? What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word "stewardship"? Budgets and spreadsheets? Money? Pledge cards? A grateful response to God? What about love? For many congregations of the ELCA, stewardship means "the church asking for money" or it means nothing at all. . . . According to Clarence Stoughton, former president of Wittenberg University, stewardship is everything we do after we say "I believe." It is the way in which we use all of the resources that God has entrusted to our care so that we can love God and our neighbor. Stewardship is about love.

DOWN, IN, AND OUT: Loving God and Loving Our Neighbor. The practice of stewardship invites us to look in three different directions: DOWN, IN and OUT. We begin by looking at how God has come *down* to us. We then look *in* to discover all that God has entrusted to our care. We end by looking *out* to understand the needs of our neighbors. While these three actions may not always happen in this order, the practice of stewardship always invites all three.

DOWN, Relationship with God. Stewardship begins at creation, where God first comes down to us. In the first chapter of Genesis, God forms humankind in God's own image and commands them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth" (Genesis 1:28). A steward is someone who cares for someone else's property. From the beginning, humanity is not an owner, but a steward of what God has created. We are first receivers, not givers! . . . We belong to God and all that we have belongs to God. We are bearers of God's love, grace and gospel. Stewardship begins with God coming down to us in love and sharing some of what is God's with us. We are a church that belongs to Christ, and there is a place for all here.

IN: What God Has Entrusted to Our Care. God has skillfully created us and blessed us with more than we could ever imagine. We are fearfully and wonderfully made! God knows us deeply and has created each of us uniquely. God has entrusted us with an abundance of tangible and intangible resources — time, talents, treasure and so much more. While our gifts may seem meager, put in the hands of God, these gifts can become so much more. In Mark 6:30-44, Jesus takes a little boy's lunch and blesses it to feed thousands. Even in the midst of scarcity, God provides in abundance. God gives in abundance that we might share in abundance. The apostle Paul writes, "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8). When we realize that all we have belongs to God and not to us, we can't help but give it away in thanksgiving for God's generosity to us. We give joyfully, graciously and sacrificially because we know that our resources are not ours to keep but are God's to share. We have varying amounts of money and stuff. Jesus talks about money more than any other subject except the kingdom of God. Money is a powerful resource because it has the ability to take our heart with it. As Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Luke 12:34). How is God calling us to use all of our money, not just the portion that we give to this congregation, to love God and our neighbor? How, as a church, are we called to use all of our money, not just benevolence, to share God's love with the world?

Stewardship (continued from page 5)

OUT: Relationship with Our Neighbor. We look out to see how God is calling us to love our neighbor with all that God has entrusted to our care. Stewardship is the way that we use all of our resources — time, talents, possessions and money — to love God and our neighbor. The Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37 exemplifies this type of stewardship. The Samaritan gave generously of his time, his possessions, and his money. He took a detour from his own travels just to help a hurting man, who was more of an enemy than a friend. Stewardship transforms God’s commandment to “love our neighbors as ourselves” from a religious expression into a way of life. Stewardship is about so much more than money. Stewardship, at its core, is about love. It is one of the primary ways that we live out Jesus’ commandment to love God and our neighbor with our whole beings. When we practice year-round stewardship, we free stewardship from the shackles of the budget so that we can be reunited with God’s mission in the world. We free stewardship from its connection to the fall season, so that it can become a way of life. And we free stewardship from the cries of scarcity, so that we can celebrate God’s abundance. (To read this resource in its entirety, go to <https://resourcefulservants.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/ELCA-Stewards-Of-Gods-Love-Resource-and-Inserts.pdf>)

The year 2020 has been a stressful year for so many. Let’s work to make stewardship a way of life for the future, even if it starts with baby steps.

Lou Ann Lee


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

Galchutt Lutheran Church
In memory of Paul Gorder
 * Ed & Lois Moen
 * Julie Berg
In memory of Jeff Kuruc
 * Michael & Mary Ann Allen

Galchutt Lutheran Church Building Fund
In-Faith Comm. Fndn – Lewis Nelson Fund
In memory of Paul Gorder
 * Robert & Lynette Leake
 * Brice & Sara Bellmore
 * Larry Wold
 * Family of Paul Gorder
In memory of Evy Arnett
 * Brice & Sara Bellmore

St. Johns Church
In-Faith Comm. Fndn – Lewis Nelson Fund

Emmanuel General Fund
In-Faith Comm. Fndn – Lewis Nelson Fund
 * Clifton & Donna Stedje
 * Susan Rothwell



Thankfulness, studies show, has multiple physical, mental and emotional benefits. Psychologist Robert Emmons calls gratitude “fertilizer for the mind” because of its powerful effects.

He admits gratitude isn’t always easy — especially when life throws us curveballs (see the year 2020) — but says it can be most helpful during and after difficulties. Emmons suggests reframing challenges using thankfulness-based language. Ask, for example: Though I wasn’t grateful for the experience at the time, how can I be now? What lessons did I learn, and how did I grow as a person?

Throughout his letters, the apostle Paul reframes his extensive sufferings and urges us to do the same. “Give thanks in all circumstances,” he writes, “for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).

Emmanuel Lutheran Council Highlights



The Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council met on October 6, 2020. In attendance were Sharon Tschakert, Fred Tol, Kevin Paczkowski, Jessica Kappes, Glenda Adams, Lesley Hulne, and Pastor Meggie. Pastor Meggie gave devotions. The Secretary's report was given by Lesley and approved in a motion by Sharon and second by Fred. The Treasurer's report submitted by Lou Ann was reviewed. Stewardship was discussed and there will be an article in the Echo regarding the importance of giving one's time, talent and money. The Council will send a letter to members reminding us that our donations are important for the financial health of the church. Jessica will draft the letter in the next month, with Pastor Meggie's input. Sharon moved to accept the report and Meggie's mileage with a second by Glenda. The Pastor's report from Meggie:

- Pastor Meggie is doing most visitations by phone, but is able to do a couple in person.
- She performed two Baptisms in September.
- The wedding discussed at the last meeting will not take place at Emmanuel.
- An update of Emmanuel's Constitution is taking place. Kevin, Lou Ann and Pastor Meggie are working on the changes suggested by the synod. The Council will review it and then a congregational approval will take place.

Committee Reports: Stewardship-No Report; Education-No Report; Worship-No Report.

Property: The committee contacted Dave Hammond concerning the stone work in the cemetery and a plan will be in place to do the work in the spring. We will invite Aurora Group to our November 3rd meeting to present a plan and estimate for an update of the church HVAC system. The landscaping project is complete and looks wonderful thanks to Lou Ann and crew. There is water damage on the ceiling in the balcony that will be looked at. There is a cracked window pane in the back door that will be looked at. The door on the church yard sign needs to be replaced.

Old Business: None.

New Business: The raffle was discussed and will be held before spring, with a date to be determined later. The Council reviewed the Emmanuel Membership list. New Member Sunday will be October 18th. We will have Prospective Pastor at the October 11th service.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3rd at 6:30 PM. A motion was made to adjourn by Jessica and seconded by Sharon. The motion passed. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Lesley Hulne

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 August 2021 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)

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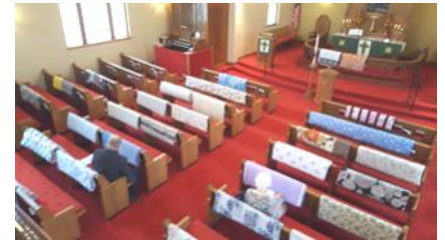
LWR News

The Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering for 2020 was smaller this past year due to the Pandemic. Our congregations, however, were generous in giving with 48 School Kits prepared by the 4H club and Galchutt Lutheran kids from donations from the congregations and community. Despite a shorter season of quilting, we shipped 33 quilts to LWR and 6 adult and children's quilts to the YWCA shelter and Churches United. With the generous donations of fabrics, we will continue our quilting in November and 2021 to meet the needs around the world. The next quilting day will be November 17 at 9 AM at Emmanuel. Won't you join us?

Ellen Rittenhouse

How to Make Mission Quilts

Are you someone who wants to help but aren't able to make it to the one day per month that the LWR quilters gather at Emmanuel? Maybe you have miscellaneous fabric at home that you no longer want or need but have time to cut it into 21 squares or 21 x 11 inch rectangles for the LWR quilters. Maybe you can sew the top at home and deliver it to the quilters to complete with batting and backing. Below are some guidelines provided from the Lutheran World Relief website. If you have questions, call Ellen Rittenhouse.



SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- LWR Mission Quilts should measure approximately 60" x 80". This size best serves adult recipients and children as they grow older. *Please donate only 60" x 80" quilts.*
- Quilt tops and bottoms can be made from whole pieces of fabric or any type of patchwork pattern or smaller squares. Twelve 21" or forty-eight 11" squares sewn together using a 1/2" seam allowance make a 60" X 80" top.
- The ultimate purpose of a quilt is to provide warmth, so please choose your fabrics and filler accordingly. Even in warmer climates, temperatures can drop dramatically at night, requiring a quilt with sufficient filler. For tips on finding affordable filler for quilts, visit lwr.org/quilts and click on Get Quilt Filler Tips.
- Keeping in mind that LWR quilts will be washed frequently and used for many purposes, we recommend sturdy, washable fabrics such as cotton, cotton blends, twill, corduroy, polyester knits, and donated upholstery and drapery samples (no sheers or fiberglass). Please ensure that there are no stains or holes before using fabrics in a quilt.
- Crochet cord or embroidery floss is easier and sturdier for tying. You may use yarn, but pay attention to the quality to ensure a sturdy quilt. *Ties should be no more than 8" to 10" apart.*
- Please *do not* donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your congregation's name. Please *do not* donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

HOW TO MAKE AN ENTIRE LWR MISSION QUILT IN THREE EASY STEPS

1. Place a piece of fabric measuring 64" x 84" right side down on the table, followed by a filler measuring 60" x 80", and then another piece of fabric as described above, also measuring 60" x 80", right side up, on top of the filler.
1. Tie the layers together using crochet or similar cord, or machine-quilt them together.
2. Bring the edges of the 64" x 84" piece over the top, pin and machine stitch the edge, using a zigzag stitch if possible.



November



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMMUNION Galchutt 9 AM Worship 9:45 S.School Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship	2	3 Emmanuel Council Meeting 6:30 PM	4 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel Confirmation at O.S. 3:30 PM	5	6	7
8 Galchutt 9 AM Worship Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship	9	10	11 Veteran's Day AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel Confirmation at O.S. 3:30 PM	12	13	14
15 COMMUNION Galchutt 9 AM Worship 9:45 S.School Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship	16	17 Quilting at Emmanuel 9 AM—4 PM	18 Galchutt Council Meeting 6:30 PM AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel Confirmation at O.S. 3:30 PM	19 Echo Articles Due Today	20	21
22 Emmanuel 9 AM Worship ** Galchutt 9:45 S.School 10:30AM Worship* GOD'S ACRE SUNDAY	23	24	25 AA Mtg 7PM @ Emmanuel	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 Galchutt 9 AM Worship 9:45 S.School Emmanuel 10:30 AM Worship	30					

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The Echo

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Just for Laughs.....

