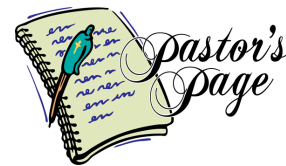


The Echo



2021 Lenten Journey

This year, we will consider our Lord's humanity, specifically looking to understand the human body through which God wrought our salvation. Each week, we will focus on a different part of Jesus' body:

- the feet of Christ,
- the eyes of Christ,
- the hands of Christ,
- the mouth of Christ,
- the ears of Christ, and
- the heart of Christ.

Together, may we learn that all bodies are sacred and contemplate how the giving of Jesus' body allowed for the salvation of all others.

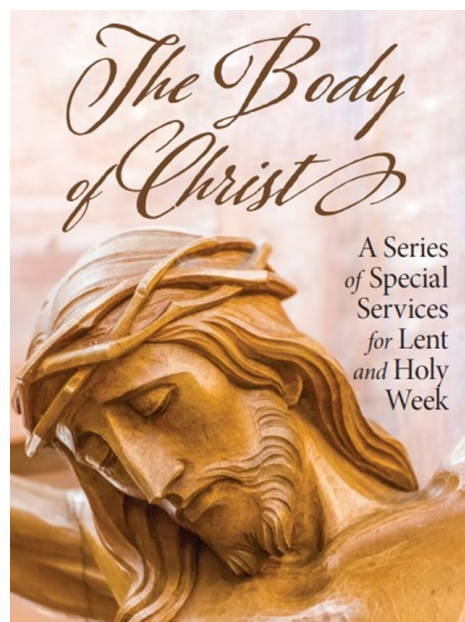
Galchutt and Emmanuel Ministry Mid-Week Services:

- Ash Wednesday: February 17- Emmanuel
- Wednesday, February 24- Galchutt
- Wednesday, March 3- Emmanuel
- Wednesday, March 10- Galchutt
- Wednesday, March 17- Emmanuel
- Wednesday, March 24- Galchutt
- Maundy Thursday, April 1- Emmanuel
- Good Friday, April 2- Galchutt

All mid-week services will be at 6:30 PM unless otherwise announced. Keep an ear open for news on Soup and Sandwich suppers.

- ♦ Easter Sunday, April 4- Both churches, times TBA later.

Interim Pastor Meggie



Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry Office: (701) 553-8546

Interim Pastor Meggie Bjertness: cell (701) 205-6803 and email mbjertness001@luthersem.edu

Church email: emmanuelgalchutt@gmail.com

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

EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Seeking Committee Members for 150th Celebration



St. John's Church will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2022. As custodians of St. John's, Galchutt Lutheran Church is excited to put together a committee to help plan this celebration.

In addition to committee members, we are also seeking any photos, videos, memorabilia, memories, stories, or other items that would be fun to include in a presentation of this celebration.

Galchutt Lutheran Church has embraced the role of watching over St. John's Church and we are very proud of the history it entails. St. John's plays an important role in Galchutt Lutheran's history and is something Galchutt members cherish. We look forward to planning this event and welcome anyone interested in helping to join us, regardless of your location!!

We hope to have a committee formed by May 2021. If interested in joining this committee or to share other information, please contact Kendra Dockter at 701-640-0127 or by email at docktercows@icloud.com




Galchutt Lutheran
Sunday School Schedule:
 January: 17 & 31
 February: 7 & 21
 March: 7, 21, & 28
 April: 11 & 18
 May: 2 & 16

Sunday School meets following church service, at about 9:45am

We want to extend a sincere THANK YOU to Sara Bellmore for her work as Administrative Assistant for the Galchutt-Emmanuel Parish the past few years. Changes in pastoral leadership and crazy COVID times were a couple of the challenges that Sara's work in the office helped the parish navigate through.

Thank You

We wish Sara the best of luck in her new venture and again say THANK YOU for her time in this position.




The Kits (Personal Care and School) ministry
needs a lead person for the spring (Personal Care Kits) and fall (School Kits) for 2021. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact the office or Ellen Rittenhouse at (218) 557-8882 for more details.

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 October 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)

This Echo is sponsored by:

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

What is Truth?

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32)



We all want the truth, don't we? The truth is something we can trust. There can only be one version of the truth and, if we could just know it, we would know how to live and act and be! But truth is hard to find today. We disagree more than ever and these disagreements, especially about health and politics, keep driving us deeper and further apart. And perhaps rightly so, there is a curious relationship between truth and trust. We do not trust people when we do not think they are telling the truth. And so we cannot determine who to trust until we learn to determine what is true. So, how do we determine what is true?

Do they do what they say? There is a deep connection between actions and words. If someone consistently says they will help out, but never does, we quickly learn not to trust them. In Mark 1:21-28, Jesus walks into a temple for the first time and starts teaching and people are instantly entranced. Why? Because, unlike the scribes, he *does* what he teaches. He is only there for a few moments before he begins healing and bringing about the good he has come to share. Look for this congruence between actions and words. It will help determine if what a person says is true.

Keep in mind: There are layers to trust. There are some people who can always be trusted to do what they say, but they don't always have the best facts. Some people, you can always trust that their intention is good, but they may not always produce the desired results. The most trusted people are trustworthy in intention, in word, in action, *and* in results. When one of these is lacking, it doesn't mean we distrust them entirely, but it does mean we will need more information in order to proceed. (*Speed of Trust* by Stephen Covey).

Look at more than one source. Deuteronomy 19:15, Matthew 18:16, John 8:17, and 2 Corinthians 13:1 all agree: "Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses." This is the same for every other kind of truth. Whenever you see new information, it is always good to double check it with another source. This is why we get second opinions on crucial doctor's visits or ask more than one friend for advice. More information gives us a better chance to determine what is true.

Know your source. Did you hear something from a trained professional or did it come up on social media? Whenever you encounter something controversial, take a moment to double check if it is true. A quick Google search can confirm or deny what you've just learned. In general, sources that are more true are those with more authority or education. In websites, more trustworthy sites end in .gov or .edu. When it comes to news, check more than one source. All news stations are biased, so be sure to look at more than one source, including one you think most likely to be neutral. For example, BBC News is a great place to get a less biased view of American politics and is a great balance to other news networks.

Beware of social media. Did you know that fake news can travel up to six times faster on social media than real news can? (Check PBS, BBC, or the *Social Dilemma* documentary). This is because fake news is often emotionally charged and people will share it or respond before checking to see if it's true. Scripture reminds us to be "slow to speak and slow to get angry." Perhaps we should also be slow to read and share!

Look for balance. John Wesley, founder of today's Methodist church, said the pursuit of knowledge should be balanced by four sources of authority: scripture, voices of authority, our history, and our personal experience. Be sure to keep *all* these sources in mind when determining truth.

In John 8:17, Jesus says, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." There is a reason we feel distrustful of the systems around us. It takes a lot of work to determine truth, and especially to separate truth from falsehood. But this is our path forward if we want to heal. In order to be set free, we must do the hard work of seeking truth and using truth to rebuild trust. *Peace, Pastor Meggie*

The year 2020 has stretched and changed us. New habits have formed, and many old ones are missed. Community events are nearly non-existent. These activities had been our opportunity to support fundraising efforts and just bond with friends. Busy schedules often made these events the only time we saw our neighbors. While Pastor Meggie and Pastor Jule have done an amazing job keeping us going with online worship, getting back to in-person worship services feels so good!



Another mode of staying connected, especially these days, is our newsletter. It is an opportunity for anyone to share an idea, experience, something you find interesting, or just a memory. You do not have to be a polished writer to scribble down a few thoughts for our newsletter since we have members of the ECHO squad to “clean up” or finish off articles. For that I am grateful! Handwritten articles are acceptable, if we can read them. We would love to receive even a few lines from you since you are our community, and we miss hearing from you.

As we look toward 2022, St. John’s Church will be celebrating its 150th anniversary. On page 2, Kendra fills us in on this event. Do you have some interesting information or a recollection about St. John’s that we might include as a “Did you know?” Maybe you have some interesting tidbits about Emmanuel or Galchutt church you could share.

While our newsletter will never replace a personal visit or phone call, the ECHO is one way we can stay connected with each other during this pandemic whether we are homebound readers, long distance readers, inactive members, or regular attendees. If you misplace your copy of the ECHO, you can always find us on our GEM website. Let’s stay in touch!

Lou Ann Lee

Wintering

We begin the 11th month of the COVID-19 pandemic with feelings of anticipation, disappointment, and exhaustion. Remember when we were first told a year ago that the virus would soon “vanish” and then in the fall that the vaccine would return things to “normal”? Here it is, 2021, and we are still waiting for relief. It has been a long year...a long winter. Katherine May in her book WINTERING: THE POWER OF REST AND RETREAT explores how to not only survive, but how to flourish in this time of quarantine.

The social distancing, mask wearing, working from home, and being laid off, has forced us into our own hibernation. This has allowed some people more time to care for themselves and household members, while others have learned to accept the love and care of others. Some, however, have suffered major setbacks. “Wintering” can be hard, but it can also be an opportunity to transform ourselves when we are not distracted by outside activities or commitments.

How have we grown during this past year? I have talked with several people who commented that the crisis of 2008 changed their lives significantly, often for the better. Is COVID that catalyst now? As a church, we have shared a virtual ministry with Our Saviors and Richland Lutheran Churches. I have felt like I am in a new community. Some of the usual activities, such as weekly fellowship, have been missed and some of the special occasions have been postponed for another year, but I have made some new connections. We have been flexible as a church, which has allowed us to continue to meet. I wonder how this will change our ministry in the future. Will we, as a church, come out of this pandemic with renewed calling and commitment, able to share our faith and love for others locally, regionally, and worldwide? There is no doubt, wintering is full of hardships, but it can make us stronger and usher us into a season of renewed hope.

Ellen Rittenhouse

Galchutt Lutheran Council Highlights—January 23, 2021

Galchutt Church council met on January 23rd at Galchutt Lutheran Church. Members present were Pamela Krump, Alex Paczkowski, Daniel Dockter, Marissa Moxness, Doug Johnson, Logan Biffert, and Pastor Meggie. Pamela Krump called the meeting to order. Alex read the secretaries report, Doug made a motion to approve the report and Logan seconded. Pastor Meggie reported that discussion will be held on the church secretary’s job that is now vacant after Sara Bellmore’s resignation. She has had 2 funerals the last few weeks. The church will follow state guidelines for COVID-19. Lent begins on February 17th with Ash Wednesday at Emmanuel, with a weekly rotation between Emmanuel and Galchutt. Soup and Sandwiches will be provided before Lenten services in Galchutt with proceeds going to the VBS/Sunday School program. Supper will be 5:45-6:20 PM with service at 6:30 PM. The council went over membership of the church and Pastor Meggie will submit to the Synod. Pamela Krump called for nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Daniel Dockter nominated Pamela Krump as President, Doug Johnson seconded. Alex Paczkowski nominated Doug Johnson as Vice President, Daniel Dockter seconded. Pamela Krump nominated Alex Paczkowski as secretary, Daniel Dockter seconded. Doug Johnson nominated Kendra Dockter as treasurer, Pamela Krump seconded. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is March 1st at 6:30 PM at Galchutt Lutheran Church.



Pamela Krump *
 Doug Johnson
 Daniel Dockter
 Marissa Moxness
 Alex Paczkowski
 Logan Biffert

Secretary, Alex Paczkowski



We keep the following in our prayers:

- ◆ The family & friends of Jerry Berg who passed away December 19th;
- ◆ The family & friends of Sylvia Myers who passed away January 10th;
- ◆ Jessica Kappes and family, whose grandmother Hazel Stuessy passed away January 16th;
- ◆ The family & friends of Glenn Fixen, who passed away on January 18th;
- ◆ Mary Krueger, Alice Gunness, and David Kilen, who have all recently been hospitalized;
- ◆ Micah, Vicki, and Darline, who continue to face health struggles;
- ◆ All those waiting to get the COVID-19 vaccine and healing for those who may be fighting this vaccine; and
- ◆ Any others who need our prayers lifted up for health, addiction, loneliness, or other issues.

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Don't forget to give!

You can always give in the offering plate
 OR give online.

Both of these options are 100% secure, online ways to give your tithes and offerings to the church. Sign up to give once or monthly!

Emmanuel:

Go to the Giving tab on our website that directs you to Vanco Faith at

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YH7S>

OR

On your smartphone, search for “Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement” in your phones App store, download and find Emmanuel Lutheran Church

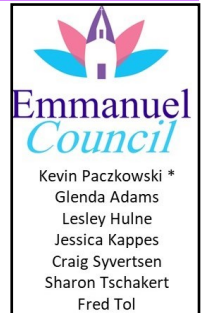
Galchutt:

Search “Give Plus Church” in your phone App store, download, and find Galchutt Lutheran Church

Emmanuel Lutheran Council Highlights—December 15, 2020

The Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council met on December 15, 2020. In attendance were Sharon Tschakert, Jessica Kappes, Craig Syvertsen, Fred Tol, Lesley Hulne, and Pastor Meggie. Sharon made a motion to pass the Continuing Resolution C10.01A20, in that Emmanuel Lutheran Church may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically. Jessica seconded the motion and it carried. This will allow the congregation to have virtual participation in meetings, including the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be in-person on January 31, 2021. It will follow the Special Meeting for the Constitutional update, which follows worship. Pastor Meggie will be off December 27th-30th. There is a Virtual Service planned for Christmas Eve, with the possibility of an in-person service, if conditions allow. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Lesley Hulne



Thank you to the following for their recent donations:

Galchutt Lutheran Church:

In memory of Jan Gorder

- Ed & Lois Moen
- Julie Berg
- Lynette & Rob Leake

In memory of Lester Bardell

- Julie Berg

In memory of Glenn Fixen

- Ed & Lois Moen

Galchutt Lutheran Kitchen Fund:

In memory of Sylvia Myers

- Doug & Amanda Johnson

In memory of Audrey Casperson

- Doug & Amanda Johnson

Galchutt Lutheran Building Fund:

In memory of Sylvia Myers

- Donavon & Jean Loff
- Larry Wold
- Debra Backlund

In memory of Jan Gorder

- Lynn & Vicki Syvertsen

In memory of Audrey Casperson

- Lynn & Vicki Syvertsen

In memory of Glenn Fixen

- Lynn & Vicki Syvertsen

In memory of Ron Callenius

- Lynn & Vicki Syvertsen

Emmanuel General Fund:

- Erik Johnson
- Clifton & Donna Stedje

In memory of Jerry Berg

- Allan & Jesse Berg
- Jason & Tamara Frankl
- Robert Rostad

In memory of Robert Skamfer

- Peggy & George Schloegel
- Robert Skamfer family

In memory of Carol Kloefer & the Ihland family

- Sally Caderet

In memory of Waldo & Anna Bjorke & Lois Ann Bjorke Larson

- John Bjorke

Emmanuel Furnace Fund

In memory of Robert Skamfer

- Donald Nelson

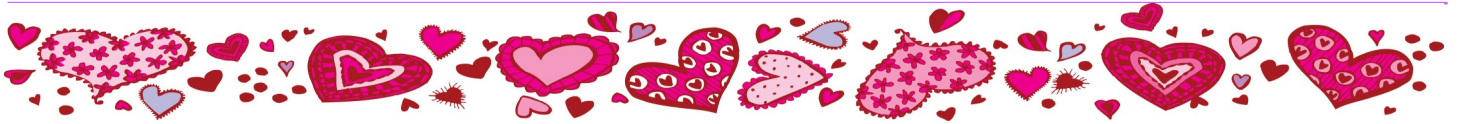
Emmanuel Cemetery Fund

In memory of Jerry Berg

- Duane Kurtz



February 2021



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3 Confirrmation @ OS	4	5	6
7 Galchutt Worship 9AM SS 9:45AM Emmanuel Worship 10:30AM	8	9	10 Confirrmation @ OS	11	12	13
14 Galchutt Worship 9AM Emmanuel Worship 10:30AM	15 QOV 5:30PM	16 Quilting at Emmanuel 9AM	17 Ash Wednesday service @ Emmanuel 6:30 PM	18 Echo article due today	19	20
21 Galchutt Worship 9AM SS 9:45AM Emmanuel Worship 10:30AM	22	23	24 Lenten service @ Galchutt 6:30PM	25	26	27
28 Galchutt Worship 9AM Emmanuel Worship 10:30AM		Looking Ahead: Galchutt council meeting on March 1st at 6:30 PM				

Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 119
Abercrombie, ND 58001

Galchutt Lutheran Church
105 Galchutt Avenue
Galchutt, ND 58075

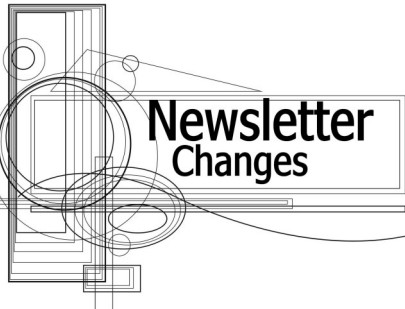
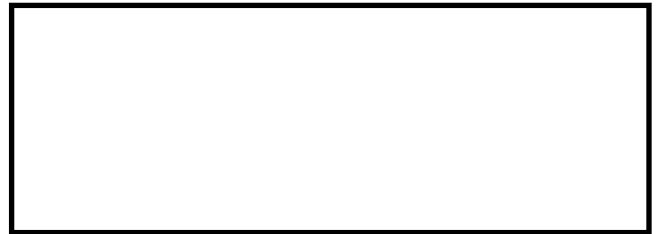


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The Echo

This month's issue of *The Echo* is sponsored by John and Becky Flaa, in loving memory of John L. Flaa and Kent Bartl, who are celebrating heavenly birthdays this month.



You have likely noticed that this issue of The Echo is printed in black and white, rather than with the first two pages in color as in the past. Due to the significant cost difference between black/white copies compared to colored copies, a decision has been made to print completely in black/white rather than raise the monthly donation amount. In order to receive the bulk mailing rate, we do need to mail at least 200 copies. In the next month or two, a survey will be sent to see who would prefer to receive their Echo electronically rather than by mail. Those who decide to receive the Echo electronically will continue to receive the mailed version for 2021 and we will re-evaluate the cost alternatives in January 2022. For those of you who do not wish an electronic copy, we remain committed to getting you the Echo by mail, so no response will be needed! Colored versions of every issue are always available under the Newsletter tab on our website at <https://galchuttemmanuel.weebly.com>