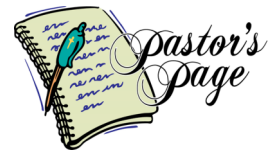


The Echo

April 2021



Maundy Thursday

For generations, Maundy Thursday was the day when new members entered the church. In more recent history, it is the night in which students take communion for the first time. This is because on that Holy Evening, we discuss the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and remember the command to serve one another, humbly and in love. Here's what Martin Luther has to say about this night in his Small Catechism.

"What is the benefit for Baptism?" Answer: "In Baptism, God forgives sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe what he has promised."

"What is the benefit of Communion?" Answer: The words 'given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sin' show us that forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament through these words, because where there is forgiveness of sin, there is also life and salvation.

How beautiful! However, sometimes these words can be hard to understand. What is sin? What is salvation? Who or what is the devil? Let's refresh our minds together:

What is sin? Sin is everything that separates us from God. Sin is everything that falls short of being perfect. Sin is wrongdoing and causes brokenness, hurt, pain, sorrow, grief, and suffering. Sin is the bad things that happen to us and the bad, broken things we do to ourselves, others, and the world. Some sin we can control. Some we cannot. Sin is a part of who we are and the ultimate end of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

What is salvation? Salvation is freedom from the brokenness. Salvation is like when a child tries to bring all their belongings home from school, having lost hope and planning to end their life... and a new friend sees, offers to help carry their things home, and stays to play games into the evening. Salvation is hope that the future will be different and the brokenness will last. We are both saved from the pain of sin in our own life and saved for eternity with Jesus Christ. Faith, then, is the assurance God is in control and, because of this, what you hope for will happen (Hebrews 11:1).

Who is the devil? Some say he is the mighty leader of all things evil. The devil prowls around looking to devour innocence, goodness, and purity and fighting against the goodness of God (1 Peter 5:8). Martin Luther certainly felt this way. Some say the devil is not a real individual, but a personification of all that is evil, dead, and broken. Either way, the devil is our enemy- an enemy we can only escape by God's power. And who is the final enemy but death itself (1 Cor. 15:26)?

Through the sacraments, we relive the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. We die to our own sin and God offers forgiveness. This means your own sins no longer need to define you and the sins against you will no longer have the final say. We are granted final freedom from the powers of evil and death and are offered a final salvation to a life full of hope and promise. In Baptism and Communion, we are new creations ready and equipped to continue and carry out God's work in the world until the final promises are realized.



At the end of the day, the Sacraments tell us what God has done, what God continues to do, and invites us to join his unfailing work in the world. I pray these promises will guide and keep you through the wonder of Holy Week and the beauty of spring. *Peace, Pr. Meggie*



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

Interim Pastor Meggie Bjertness; cell (701) 205-6803

GEM email: emmanuelgalchutt@gmail.com

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

EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Holy Week Services

- **Palm Sunday, March 28:** Communion Service, 9am Galchutt, 10:30am Emmanuel
- **Maundy Thursday, April 1:** Communion Worship, 6:30pm at Emmanuel
- **Good Friday, April 2:** Candlelight Service, 6:30pm at Galchutt
- **Easter Sunday, April 4:** Communion Service, 9am Galchutt, 10:30am Emmanuel

All are invited to join us for these services. May the peace of God find you this Holy week!

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes go out to Vi Merchant, who celebrates her 90th birthday on April 30!
A family celebration is planned.



Position Description: Administrative Assistant for Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry

Summary: Position is responsible to the congregation's councils and generally reports to the Pastor for work assignments. Position is approx. 5 hours per week with employee being flexible to adjust hours for certain weeks if special events such as funerals or other events occur. Position is \$15/hour.

Required Skills: Employee must be highly proficient in Microsoft Office, including Word, Excel, Access, and Publisher, in order to prepare weekly bulletins, including funeral, wedding, or other bulletins or announcements as needed.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Prepare, distribute, and maintain church communications, as requested by pastor.
- Type, print, fold and deliver bulletins to both churches whenever services are held.
- Print, fold, and mail monthly newsletters under direction of the newsletter editor.
- Create and send weekly e-updates with information provided by pastor.
- Coordinate musicians to play for services.
- Complete check requests as needed for musicians and other expenses.
- Purchase and maintain adequate inventories of office supplies for church office.
- Maintain an efficient office filing system, including congregational membership records, including transfers, marriages, etc.
- Be available by phone for calls and questions from the public regarding the two congregations.
- Routinely back-up GEM electronic records on external hard drive.
- Other duties as requested by pastor.

Other Skills and Abilities:

Ability to work with pastors, musicians, and council members, as needed.

Interested applicants should forward their letter of interest and qualifications to the Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry office, in care of either of the two council presidents by April 30, 2021.



Please note time changes:

Galchutt will be having a congregation meeting called "Growing Galchutt: Our Faith in the Future." A potluck will be held after services on **April 18th** with an informal conversation about the church's future.

Emmanuel worship time @ 9 AM
Galchutt Sunday School 9:30 AM
Galchutt worship time @ 10:30 AM

Thank you to Ashley Syvertsen for assembling this month's issue of The Echo! Volunteers for future months are needed. Contact Lou Ann Lee if you can help.



Confirmation classes on the following dates:
April 14th, April 21st, and April 28th
Confirmation Sunday is May 2nd.





One year ago we were just becoming familiar with the words pandemic, quarantine, and social distancing. None of us likely would have believed it if someone had told us our businesses and schools would remain closed or at limited capacity for as long as actually occurred. We had never had an Easter or Christmas without worshipping with our family and friends in our churches. But we did and we made it through.

Here we are in 2021, a year later, and things are finally starting to get back to some resemblance of normalcy. Teachers and health care personnel worked tirelessly to keep everything as close to normal as possible. Through it all, our area pastors worked to make worship possible, even Zoom coffee hours where we could see our fellow members for those who wished to join. I want to personally give a big thank you to them for “keeping us together” and to our local Red River Communications for allowing us free broadcast in our homes of our worship services to those with their service. This would not have been possible 50 years ago.

Spring, my favorite time of year, is with us once again. We can go outside and take in the freshness of God’s clean earth with thoughts of what we are going to plant. My pepper sprouts are growing in the house waiting for warmer days. We have made it! Through it all, the words of Jesus remind us, “I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

Happy Spring!

Lou Ann Lee

Forgiveness

Forgiveness appears a simple concept at first glance, but encompasses layers of meaning. Our first exposure probably comes as a little child when we are told to “say you’re sorry” in order to understand we’ve done something wrong and learn empathy. Of course, that exchange often requires the response of, “I forgive you.” While this may bring peace to most childhood situations, as we age, deeper hurts require a more mature understanding of forgiveness.

Older children can come to see forgiveness as dependent on getting even or getting compensated for the wrong, but eventually, we hope to see forgiveness develop into an offer of unconditional mercy. This we learn by observing elders offer forgiveness when they have been wronged. We also experience it as a part of our worship service in the receiving of Christ’s body and blood in communion.

Accepting forgiveness can be as important as offering it. We have all experienced physical hurts as well as emotional hurts that have called upon us to forgive others, but how about when the person that needs forgiving is ourself? Several years ago, Pastors Michael and Erica offered a service of forgiveness. I found that asking for forgiveness of myself was difficult but it allowed me to no longer dwell upon a sin. These few years later, I don’t even recall what that sin was. What I have learned is that as long as I carry memories of my sins or that of others, they remain in my head where they hurt me, absorbing my time and energy. I don’t need to have that space taken up by persistent thoughts of past wrongs. The forgiveness we read about in the Bible frees us to live in the present and not in the past.

Jesus taught that when we confess our wrongs, he takes them so that we don’t have to carry them any longer. If you are feeling heavy from carry feelings of hurt or resentment, give them to God in prayer and confession so that you may be free to serve God and our fellowman.

Ellen Rittenhouse



Emmanuel Lutheran Council Highlights

The Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council met on March 16, 2021. In attendance were Sharon Tschakert, Jessica Kappes, Craig Syvertsen, Fred Tol, Donald Hestdalen, Tessa Tschakert, Lou Ann Lee, Lesley Hulne, and Pastor Meggie. Pastor Meggie led us in devotions and prayer to open the meeting.

Secretary Report: The report was given and approved in a motion by Sharon and seconded by Tessa.

Pastor's Report: We presently only have two members in nursing homes. Pastor Meggie is deciding on how to prioritize her visitation responsibility and is open to suggestions as to how best to utilize her extra visitation time. She reported Galchutt is on board with a 5-hour weekly Secretary position and we will continue the process. Emmanuel will switch Sunday service times on April 18 with Galchutt, with Emmanuel having the 9 AM service. We will resume communion at the altar rail and increase the congregation singing of hymns. Communion services include Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday for Holy week. Craig moved to accept the submitted pastor's mileage, Fred seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: LouAnn presented the financial report. The report was approved in a motion by Don and seconded by Sharon.

Committee Reports:

Property: Fred replaced the light switch controlling the basement lights. Fred submitted a quote from Scott's Electric for \$750.00 for new lighting which includes 7 fixtures for the entryway, 2 wall sconces, and 2 chandeliers for the Fireside Room. Craig made a motion and Tessa seconded to accept the quote and the motion carried. Donald reported the heating system is being tweaked by putting louvers in the duct work to direct the heat. We want feedback from Austin and Chris regarding the status of this situation.

Worship: The committee is meeting to select hymns. Pastor Meggie would like readers for the Palm Sunday Service.

Old Business: Palm Sunday Brunch was discussed. LouAnn will pick up the eggs and prepare the rolls. Tessa will pick up the sausage, ketchup and butter. Sharon will pick up the juice. We will all help with cooking and serving.

New Business: Fred volunteered to make sure the trash is moved to the curb on Tuesdays. Sophie Grace Photography will take the official Pastor portrait of Meggie. A discussion with regard to visitation priority was held and LouAnn brought up the concern that our own membership is in need of the most attention. Most agreed that COVID has been hard on attendance and our members need to be assured it is safe to come back and that they are missed.

The next meeting is April 14 at 6:30 PM. Sharon moved to adjourn the meeting, Fred seconded the motion and it carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. *Secretary, Lesley Hulne*

We keep the following in our prayers:

- ♦ The Ihland and Syvertsen families as they mourn the loss of their sister and aunt, Sally Caderet, who passed away in California on March 21;
- ♦ The Ihland family as they mourn the loss of Sandra's sister, Yvonne, who passed away in Oregon on March 22; and
- ♦ Micah, Vicki, Darline, and any others, as they struggle to deal with health issues.





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

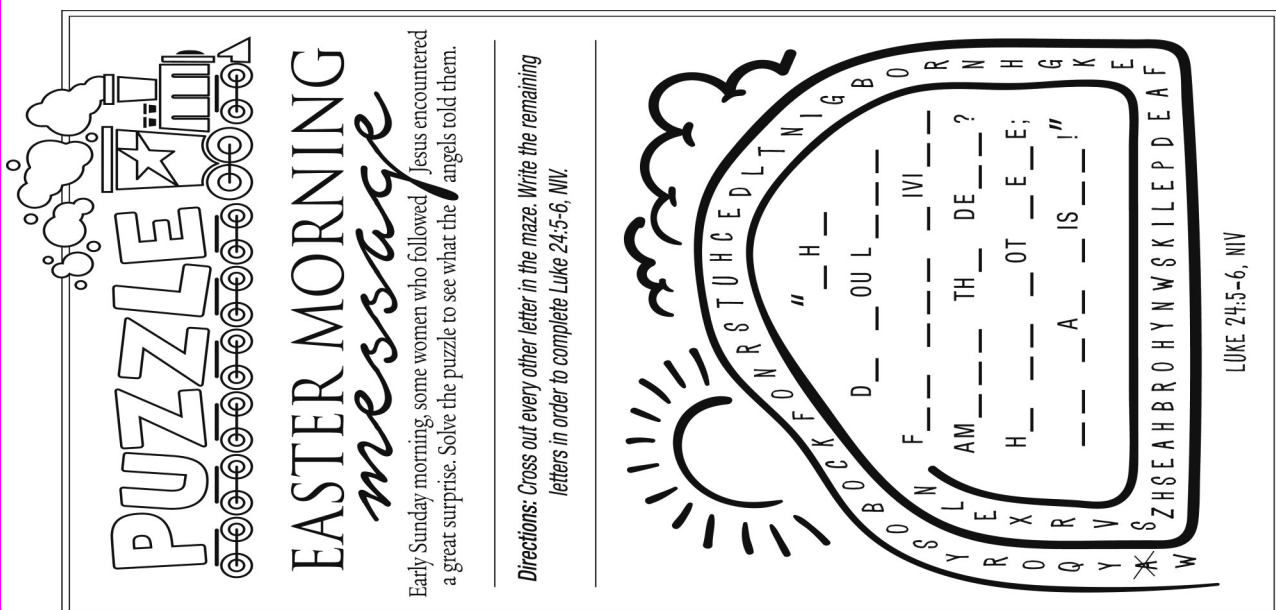
Galchutt Lutheran Council Highlights

Galchutt Church council met on March 1st at 6:30 PM. Members present were Pamela Krump, Alex Paczkowski, Logan Biffert, Doug Johnson, Marissa Moxness, and Pastor Meggie Bjertness. Pamela called the meeting to order, Pastor Meggie led with a prayer. Alex read last month's minutes, Logan accepted the minutes and Doug seconded with no changes. Pamela presented the treasury report submitted by Kendra Dockter. Alex accepted the treasury report and Doug seconded.

PASTOR REPORT: Pastor Meggie had 306 miles for February. Currently Galchutt only has 1 member living at a nursing home. April 1st - Maundy Thursday will be at 6:30 at Emmanuel, April 2nd Good Friday will be at 6:30 at Galchutt, April 4th Easter Sunday will be normal worship times with 9 AM in Galchutt. Pastor Meggie is on vacation from March 5-12. Kim Adams will be pulpit supply.

NEW BUSINESS: Church sewer was frozen in February. Ben Busch pumped the sewer out, Aurora unplugged it. We will need to look into getting a new sewer system at the church. The government will pay 60% of the cost for a new sewer. Daniel and Doug will be working on getting a new mower for the churches before mowing season. The shingles on St. Johns need to be looked at, some may be missing or curled. Hopefully done before the anniversary of St. Johns in June 2022. Doug, Logan, and Kyle Krump will fix the lights in the dining room. Approximately 40 lights need to be switched to LED. Pamela has cancelled Joleen Tol for cleaning. Kendra has come up with a cleaning schedule and will present to the ladies with a per-quarter deep cleaning. Pastor Meggie gave a sample of a parish agreement for Galchutt and Emmanuel. Council agreed that a committee should be made with 3 members from each church to come up with a parish agreement. The council feels we need to hire a secretary. Emmanuel presented a part-time, 5 hours a week position. Pamela will talk to Jessica Kappes and will post a job listing. Pastor Meggie and Pamela talked about the leadership meeting they had with the Bishop and how they would like to see the church grow. The council agreed that a congregation meeting of Growing Galchutt: Our Faith in the Future with a celebration potluck will be held on April 18th with an informal conversation about the church's future. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next council meeting will be held on April 13th at 6:30 PM.

Alex Paczkowski, Secretary



Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV

Thank you to the following for their gifts & memorials:

Galchutt Lutheran Building Fund

In memory of Sylvia Myers

- Lynn & Vicki Syvertsen
- Family of Sylvia Myers
- Burton & Kristie Berg
- Doug & Linda Kuruc

In memory of Ed Moen

- Doug & Linda Kuruc
- Donovan & Jean Loff
- Larry Wold
- David Fixen
- Daniel & Kendra Dockter
- Lynn & Vicki Syvertsen

In memory of Glenn Fixen

- Barry & Charlene Strand
- Julie Berg
- Doug & Linda Kuruc
- Daniel & Kendra Dockter
- Paul & Jan Strand
- Kari Schlotfeldt
- Craig & Deb Syvertsen
- Donavon & Jean Loff
- Kyle & Tertia Christensen
- Russell & Shirley Christensen
- Tom & Kathy Radig
- Robbie & Lynette Leake
- Mike & Twila Moen
- Andy & Marley Strand
- David & Marsha Hendrickson
- Bob & Sande Mathison
- Jenny & Tony Wulfekuhle
- Alice Schlotfeldt
- Roger & Jane Strand
- Jon & Jody Strand
- Shirley Strand
- Greg & Vicki Spofford
- Charles & Lynn Strand
- Garry & Barb Strand
- Tom & Brenda Lyseng
- Alex & Julie Ann Mandes
- Larry Wold

In memory of LaRue Flaa

- Lynn & Vicki Syvertsen
- Daniel & Kendra Dockter



Galchutt Lutheran Church

In memory of Sylvia Myers

- Steve & Shelly Fixen

In memory of Ed Moen

- Geraldine Yaggie
- Sharon Rostad
- Julie Berg
- Duane Kurtz
- Burton & Kristie Berg
- Sally Cadaret
- Doug & Mandy Johnson

St. John's Cemetery Fund

In memory of Sylvia Myers

- Family of Sylvia Myers

In memory of Ed Moen

- Dave & Renee Gauslow
- Kathy & Kevin Hersdoon
- Craig & Debra Syvertsen
- Scott & Jessica Gauslow

Emmanuel Furnace Fund

In memory of Robert Skoog

- Brent & Mary Jo Larson

Emmanuel General Fund

In memory of Robert Skoog

- Wes & Shirley Berg

In memory of LaRue Flaa

- Wes & Shirley Berg

In memory of Jerry Berg

- Allen & Jesse Berg

In memory of cousin Mary Jo Olmstead

(daughter of Joyce Larson Bjordahl, granddaughter of Bernard & Mary Larson & great-granddaughter of Jens & Pauline Larson)

- Barbara Larson Johnson, J. Bruce Larson, Pamela Larson, Deborah Larson Uselman & Brent Larson

In memory of Donald Gunness on their wedding anniversary on March 25th


- Alice Gunness



April 2021



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>Emmanuel Altar Guild</p>  <p>Tessa Tschakert</p>				<p>1 Maundy Thursday service @ Emmanuel @ 6:30PM</p>	<p>2 Good Friday service @ Galchutt @ 6:30PM</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 EASTER SUNDAY Galchutt Worship 9AM Emmanuel Worship 10:30AM</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 Galchutt Worship 9AM SS 9:45AM Emmanuel Worship 10:30AM</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Galchutt Council Mtg @ 6:30PM</p>	<p>14 Confiirmation @ OS Emmanuel Council Mtg @ 6:30PM</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 NOTE CHANGE!! Emmanuel Worship 9AM Galchutt SS 9:45 AM Worship 10:30AM</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Quilting at Emmanuel 9AM—4PM</p>	<p>21 Confiirmation @ OS</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 Galchutt Worship 9AM Emmanuel Worship 10:30AM</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Confiirmation @ OS</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	

Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry Office: (701) 553-8546
 Interim Pastor Meggie Bjertness; cell (701) 205-6803
 GEM email: emmanuelgalchutt@gmail.com
 Website: <http://galchuttemmanuel.weebly.com/>

Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry

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

Galchutt Lutheran Church
105 Galchutt Avenue
Galchutt, ND 58075



This month's issue of ***The Echo***

is sponsored by

Larry Wold

In loving memory of Curtis & Margaret Wold

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT # 101
ABERCROMBIE, ND 58001

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



ECHO SPONSORSHIP FORM

Thank you for supporting The Echo. Sponsorships for November 2021 and forward are available as of the date of this publication. If you are interested in sponsoring a future issue, please fill out the form below and mail your check to:
**Galchutt Church, c/o Kendra Dockter,
16860 70th St SE, Colfax, ND 58018.**

This Echo is sponsored by:

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

_____.

_____ \$50 (half month sponsor)

_____ \$100 (full month sponsor)

Just for Laughs.....

