

The Echo

May 2021



Transformed by the Son

Jesus also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come (Mark 4:26-29).

I recently ran into someone I hadn't seen in a while. A few years prior, he had moved away and started attending a new church- a non-Lutheran one. We were chatting and catching up when suddenly he got a querying look in his eye.

"Does this church teach salvation?" he asked.

Slightly taken aback I asked, "What do you mean?"

"Salvation. Like knowing the time and place when you accepted Christ as your personal Lord and Savior," he said.

I responded with a story.

"My faith is like growing up on the east side of a mountain. Some people who grow up on the mountain only ever look west, toward the mountain. And so, as they age, the sun gently rises behind them and they don't realize it until one day they turn around and say, "Aha! I understand!" I, however, grew up on the east side of a mountain and faced east. For all of my life, I've been watching the sun rise. At some point, yes, the sun broke over the horizon, but I've never known a day without it."

Indeed, faith is a mysterious thing. I have known some people who could certainly point out a specific moment in their life when their life was transformed by the life and work of Jesus Christ. I have known some people whose lives changed dramatically in a moment. I have known people to have that "moment," and yet their lives aren't changed. I have known people to grow up faithfully in church and seemingly walk away. And, I have known many faithful people to grow up as I did, having never known a day without Jesus Christ.

The truth of salvation is like Jesus' words in Mark. "Night or day, whether we sleep or get up, the seed grows and [we don't] know how." Faith can grow whether we have a "moment" or not, grew up in church or not. Ultimately, it is not up to us to decide about faith. If it was, we would never choose God. Praise the Lord, that God chooses us and will pursue us in whatever way we each respond best!

How about you? How did your faith grow? Who might enjoy hearing that story today? May the peace of God that surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Meggie



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

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

Administrative Asst. email: emmanuelgalchutt@gmail.com and cell (701) 640-0321

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



Greetings beloved-

Well, the long-anticipated day has finally arrived. As of April 22, I have accepted a call as Associate Minister at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in East Grand Forks, to begin in early June. For better or worse, this marks the beginning of our final 30 days working together. My last Sunday with GEM will be May 23.

I have dearly loved working with you all. Thank you so much for the opportunity to learn and grow while serving Emmanuel and Galchutt Lutheran Churches. I am not only grateful for our time together, but am also proud of the work you have done to think through, pray about, and plan for the future.

Please know that in the coming weeks I will be working with both council presidents, our new office administrator, and the church councils to be sure the things we've been working on do not fall through the cracks. Feel free to reach out as you have questions or concerns about this transition.

Peace to all of you,

Your Pastor, Meggie

It's Time to Begin Collecting LWR Personal Care Kit Items.

Lutheran World Relief reports, "Soap, towels, toothbrushes and combs. These simple gifts improve the standard of living for people around the world."

The following items are needed to complete each kit:

- ONE light or medium weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended.
- TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping.
- ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging.
- ONE metal nail clipper (attached file optional), remove packaging.
- ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging.

NOTE: There will be a donation box in each church where you can place any items or a monetary donation. Please have your donations to the church by **Sunday, May 9**, so they can be packed and made ready for shipment.

Some Important Guidelines to Remember: All items should be new and in good condition. Do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name. Do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

Karen Krump

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 emmanuelgalchutt@gmail.com



Prior to becoming the editor of the Echo, I assisted for a few years as layout editor. My biggest challenge as the editor has been trying to follow my predecessor's lead and write an article each month that was somewhat interesting. Crazy as it sounds, I enjoy playing with software so doing the layout is the easier part for me! Creative writing, not so much!

I recently had a revelation that caused me to skip a happy beat. As I looked at other church newsletters, I realized I did not need to write a separate article each month. Those area newsletters contained articles from the pastor, council presidents, committees, and miscellaneous articles and upcoming events. So with this "pressure" taken off my mind, your future issues will likely not have a separate editor article unless something moves me to write.

I would, however, again like to encourage you, our readers, to send articles. I know there are folks out there who have stories or readings that would be of interest to our readers. If you have an idea and are not sure if it would be appropriate for this publication, just email me or call me to chat about it. Maybe you have some memories from the past about either of our congregations or interesting facts about our community. If you know of a community event that may be of interest to others, let me know and, if space allows, we can announce. Just keep in mind that our non-profit mailing rate

does not allow us to advertise in the Echo for businesses or organizations that are "for profit" organizations. Our newsletter staff created a list of ideas for 2021 so I will list them and, if one of those topics speaks to you, put it on paper and send to me. Any other ideas are also welcome.

Lou Ann Lee

Upcoming Themes:

June - Humility and/or Prayer;

July - Love and/or Happiness;

August - Hope and/or Courage;

September - Blessings and/or Worship; and

October - Miracles and/or Prophecy.

RENEWAL

Two of my favorite quilters end their quilt shows with this statement, "It's a new day every day!" We have been going through months and years of those days both in our personal lives and church and community lives.

What is renewal? Webster defines renew as "to make new again; to restore to freshness or vigor; also, to gain again as new, to renew one's strength." Throughout our lives this process takes place in many ways—sleep (at all ages), physical growth, renewal of magazine/newspaper subscriptions, updating work skills, exercise, school, etc. The pandemic has encouraged us to find new ways to participate and share our faith virtually, both in our congregations and with others.

We have been blessed to have the consistency of one leader, Pastor Meggie, to support and guide us through this time. However, as life returns to a "new normal" we will be asked to consider what, if any, changes we will want as a part of our renewal process. As I face each new day, I find it helpful to begin with an attitude of what can I learn and contribute to my life and that of those around me. I find contributing to the LWR quilting project is one contribution I can make to life around the world and here at home. In a recent sewing class I attended, I met a mother and daughter who immigrated from Congo. They reminded me that there are new citizens in our area who have much to share with us as part of our community at large.

What can we do to make each new day a day of renewal, growth, vigor, and strength personally and as a church community for today and into the future!

Ellen Rittenhouse

LWR News

Lutheran World Relief quilters have been busy locally and throughout the country working to meet the needs around the world. Many groups have only recently returned to quilting in groups so the number of quilts available for shipment may be reduced at this time. The quilts and kits collected at the warehouses in Minneapolis and in Maryland will not reach those in need for 6-9 months. The Dakotas/NW Minnesota region will be collecting the completed quilts and kits in Fargo the week of May 10-14. You may have noticed all the quilts displayed at Emmanuel. The quilters have been busy making quilts for shipment in May, thanks to the help of several ladies sewing at home. Personal care kits will be shipped along with the quilts (see page 2). Your continued support of LWR through donations of goods and money are greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact *Ellen Rittenhouse* at 701-403-3772 (new phone #).



Pentecost is May 23rd this year. What comes to mind when you hear the word *Pentecost*? Many people think of a mighty wind, tongues of fire and multiple languages. But Acts 2 begins with another detail that's just as key: Jesus' disciples "were all together in one place." Because they were together physically and spiritually, the early believers didn't miss the life-changing, world-changing birth of the Church.

The pandemic, while changing our definition of gathering, also highlighted our need for interaction. If Jesus' first followers hadn't been assembled on Pentecost, they would've missed the outpouring of God's power and the indescribable joy God had for them. Think about what believers today might miss if we neglect to worship with other friends of Christ. Who would want to miss God's blessings, promises and joy?

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Thanks, Mom!

At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. "I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life," he said. "She's a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice."

The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. "It's really hard to read my mom's handwriting," he said.

Emmanuel Lutheran Council Highlights

The Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council met on April 14, 2021. In attendance were Sharon Tschakert, Jessica Kappes, Craig Syvertsen, Tessa Tschakert, Lesley Hulne, and Pastor Meggie.

Pastor Meggie led us in devotions and prayer to open the meeting.

Secretary's Report: The report was read and approved in a motion by Craig and seconded by Tessa.

Pastor's Report: There will be a funeral April 15 for Alden Bevre. She thought Palm Sunday and Easter went well. She met with the Worship Committee to choose hymns for future weeks. We moved to three hymns per service, and she will add in a celebration of offering. We are going to move back to the former trifold bulletin we were previously using. Confirmation is resuming. She has been studying Stewardship and will meet with the Stewardship Committee to explore ideas. Sharon moved to accept the submitted mileage, Tessa seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The financial report was presented. The report was approved in a motion by Tessa and seconded by Craig.

Committee Reports:

Property: The furnace project is being wrapped up.

Stewardship: A committee meeting is being scheduled.

Old Business: Pastor Meggie had her Pastor portrait done by Sophie Grace Photography. There was one applicant for the church office position, and we will move forward on the interview process.

New Business: We are thinking about options for Sunday Services during the summer.

The next meeting is May 18 at 6:30 PM. Craig moved to adjourn the meeting, Tessa seconded the motion and it carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Lesley Hulne



Jessica Kappes*
Donald Hestdalen
Lesley Hulne
Craig Syvertsen
Fred Tol
Sharon Tschakert
Tessa Tschakert

MANY THANKS for these recent donations:

Emmanuel General Fund:

- In memory of Sally Cadaret
 - ◇ Judy Larson
 - ◇ Leone Hagen
 - ◇ David & Marsha Hendrickson
 - ◇ Paula Aigner
 - ◇ Ross & Tina Aigner



Memorial Day is May 31st this year. Just a reminder that all artificial flowers must be removed from the Emmanuel Cemetery by **June 17**. Items left after that date will be disposed of if placed in the areas that are mowed. Please be respectful for those who maintain our cemeteries. Thank you.



Confirmation Sunday will be May 23, 2021, at Emmanuel Lutheran. Casyn Syvertsen will be affirming his baptismal vows. Please keep Casyn in your prayers.

Galchutt Lutheran Council Highlights

The Galchutt Lutheran Church Council met on April 13, 2021, at 6:30 PM at Galchutt Lutheran Church. Members present were Pamela Krump, Alex Paczkowski, Marissa Moxness, Doug Johnson, Logan Biffert, Daniel Dockter, Kendra Dockter, and Pastor Meggie. Pamela called the meeting to order, Pastor Meggie led with a devotion and a prayer. Alex read last months minutes, there was no treasury report.

PASTOR REPORT: Pastor Meggie had 205 miles for March. Easter services went well. 64 people attended Easter Sunday service at Galchutt. The worship committee has decided to bring back communion at the rail on communion Sundays, 3 hymns will be sung on each Sunday, and an offering prayer will be included. The council decided to not order the tri-fold bulletins that were discontinued during the pandemic. We will continue with our own for the future. Confirmation starts again for a few weeks. Pastor Meggie is working on the electronic record book of memberships.

OLD BUSINESS: Shingles on St. Johns church look good, with no repairs needed. April 18th Potluck is scheduled during the Growing Galchutt meeting with the congregation. Pamela received one applicant for the secretary job. Pamela will take the next step after Emmanuel meets. The church will keep Craig Irwin for insurance. Doug Johnson got 3 bids for a new mower. Kendra proposed that St. Johns will pay 75% of the cost of the mower, and Galchutt will pay 25%. Alex moved to make the motion that the committee will decide which mower to purchase with a 75/25% payment between St. Johns and Galchutt. Logan seconded the motion. Roger Miller nominated himself to attend the synod assembly. Give+ app sees 6-10 regular members donating weekly and would like to remind members of the Give+ option for offering and other donations. New lights will be installed in June in the dining room and Pamela will look into the North Dakota efficiency grant to pay for the new lights.

NEW BUSINESS: Doug got a cover for the drain/basement sewer, the key for the cover is in the kitchen closet. Donavon Loff sprayed for crabgrass. VBS will be similar to last year with only kids from our congregation and will be in Fall 2021. Council briefly talked about the congregation meeting of Growing Galchutt that will be held on April 18th. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is scheduled for May 11th at 6:30 PM.

Alex Paczkowski, Secretary



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

We keep the following in our prayers:


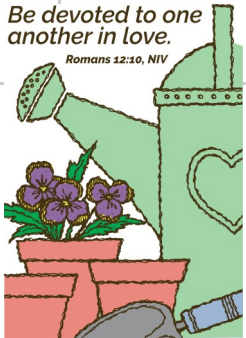
- ◆ The family and friends of Alden Bevre, who recently passed away;
- ◆ The family and friends of Darlene Leland, who recently passed away;
- ◆ Marvin Kensinger and Marlys Larson, both of whom have recently been hospitalized;
- ◆ Micah and Vicki as they continue to deal with health issues;
- ◆ Those seniors who will be graduating from high school in the coming weeks;
- ◆ Casyn Syvertsen as he affirms his baptismal vows through confirmation;
- ◆ Pastor Meggie as she starts her first call and is ordained; and
- ◆ Our council members and call committee members as they continue to make decisions for our two congregations and our future. Please pray for them and our congregations.





May 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Shirley Berg Emmanuel Altar Guild 				1
2 Galchutt Worship 9AM SS 9:45AM Emmanuel Worship 10:30AM	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Mother's Day Galchutt Worship 9AM Emmanuel Worship 10:30AM	10	11 Galchutt council meeting 6:30 PM	12	13	14	15
16 Galchutt Worship 9AM SS 9:45AM Emmanuel Worship 10:30AM	17	18 Emmanuel council meeting 6:30 PM Quilting at Emmanuel 9-4	19 Echo articles due today	20	21	22
23 Galchutt Worship 9AM Emmanuel Worship & Confirmation 10:30 AM Pastor Meggie's last day.	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 No Worship Services today RHS graduation	31 Memorial Day (watch for service times)					Be devoted to one another in love. Romans 12:10, NIV 

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



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In loving memory of
Rasmus & Marie Tverdahl,
Palmer Tverdahl, and
Oscar & Ruth Gylland



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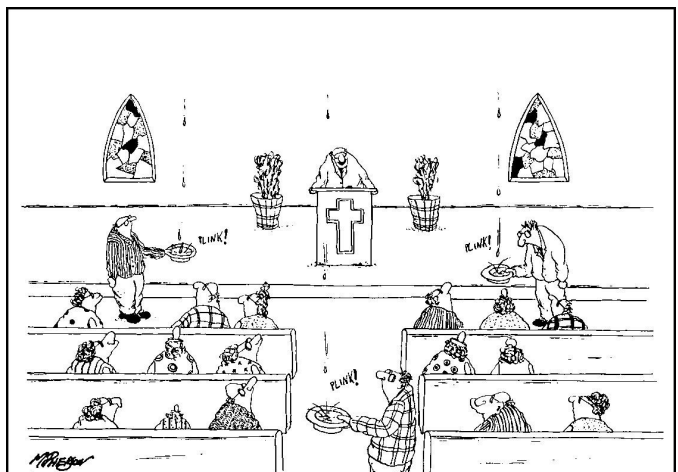
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Just for Laughs.....



"Today's collection will go toward the purchase of a new roof."