

# The Echo

June 2021



**There will be no services on May 30th, Memorial Day weekend. On June 2nd we will start a summer worship schedule with services on WEDNESDAY NIGHTS at 6 PM, rotating between Galchutt and Emmanuel.**

June 2 - Service at Galchutt, Kim Adams presiding

June 9 - Service at Emmanuel with communion, Kim Adams presiding

June 16 - Service at Galchutt with communion, Kim Adams presiding

June 23 - Service at Emmanuel, Matt Valan presiding

\*June 30 - Service at Galchutt at 5:30 PM, Janelle Hansen presiding - with picnic served by council for all in attendance (note time change)



**Upcoming Themes:**  
**July - Love and/or Happiness;**  
**August - Hope and/or Courage;**  
**September - Blessings and/or Worship; and**  
**October - Miracles and/or Prophecy.**



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## Humility



A self-proclaimed genius walks into a bar and says, "I'm the smartest person in the world. In fact, I know every single word in the dictionary!"

One of the patrons, slowly reaches into her purse, takes out a dictionary, and says, "Okay, tell me the meaning of the words humility, charity, and patience."

The genius replies, "Oh, so you're just gonna make up your own words now, are you?"

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Humility is one of those things we talk about as people of faith, but can be hard to put into words. Sometimes we think humility must be the opposite of arrogance. "In order to be truly humble, we must *never* think of ourselves and *only* think of others!" Other times, we think humility is like humiliation. "Well, if I belittle myself, then perhaps I am humble."

I would pose a different story. **Perhaps humility isn't thinking less of yourself, it's just thinking of yourself less often.**

I have been thinking a lot about this recently as, on May 14, after five long years of study, I was finally ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA. As I anticipated this day, I was so excited to have finally concluded a long and hard journey through papers, assignments, interviews and more. And, indeed, it was a big day!

However, as I stood in front of the congregation that day, I realized this journey was less about me and more about a whole community of people who 1) recognized God's call for my life and 2) were tireless in pursuing this goal. As I stood in front of the assembly, I had a new insight into humility. I realized that this journey would not have begun without my childhood congregation and would not have been possible without support from First Lutheran and other local organizations. I realized I was taught to be a leader by Emmanuel and Galchutt. In short, I would not be the leader I am without the prayers, support, and encouragement of others. It was not just my day, it was *our* day.

Humility is not saying "you are worthless." Humility is remembering "the world isn't all about you." As you go on your way, may you look for the ways others have influenced your life. May you recognize the beauty in others and the needs in others. May you look at yourself with humility, not thinking you have nothing to share, but realizing you have just as much to share as every other person around you. And as you see others in their joys and needs, ask, "Who is God calling me to be?"

*Peace, Pastor Meggie*

P.S. Thank you, to each of you who contributed to my journey.



(Left) Meggie Bjertness was ordained at First Lutheran Church on May 14, 2021. God Bless You, Meggie, as your start your pastoral duties as an ordained minister.

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(Right) Casyn Travis Syvertsen affirmed his baptismal vows through confirmation at Emmanuel Lutheran on May 23rd. Please keep Casyn in your prayers!





Last month I stated I probably would not write an article each month unless I had something important to say. This month requires me to do so - giving thanks to God for allowing us the gift of first having Intern Meggie, then Interim Meggie, and now Pastor Meggie lead us in our spiritual journey during these past 21 months.

As I mentioned at a recent council meeting, I distinctly recall the day Shar Gumke from the synod called me as a member of the call committee. Shar said she had a third-year seminary student who she believed would work out well with our congregations. Well, Shar was correct! Who would have ever dreamed that a seminary student could step in with such ease? Maybe Meggie did not think it was so easy, but we sure thought it worked out perfectly. In addition to her regular pastoral duties, she led this flock through COVID and its virtual services, baptisms, illnesses, visitations, and funerals. She had an internship likely filled with more "firsts" than most interns. And for that and the ease with which she undertook every new situation, we say "thank you!" As much as we do not want you to leave, we congratulate you and wish you and Ben the very best in your new endeavors. We know you will do well wherever life takes you.



Lou Ann Lee

*Thank You!*  
**Thank you to Jan Rorvig who assisted by assembling the Echo for mailing for the months of May and June.**

Which follower of Jesus preached to the crowds after receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost? (Go to Acts 2:14)

- A. John
- B. Peter
- C. Mary Magdalene
- D. Paul



As a parish, we have experienced many changes in the past few years- changes in leadership, membership, and lifestyle. We welcomed Pastor Meggie when she arrived at GEM and her strong guidance has supported us through joyful times and somber times that have delivered more deaths than any of us could have anticipated. The families touched by these losses have suffered, often times without their larger community of support. Members have moved and we have also welcomed new folks into our parish and community. Though good and bad, unexpected or planned, all of this can be terribly unsettling.

Recently, I read a meme attributed to Mary Louise Defender Wilson, the renowned educator, historian, and storyteller, that I believe speaks to where we are today. "Healing doesn't mean the damage never existed. It means the damage no longer controls our lives." As we have come through Pentecost, we have been reminded that Jesus shared His journey with the disciples in bits and pieces as they were able to hear and understand it. He also told them that the believers would receive guidance from the Holy Spirit/Advocate when He went back to the Father who sent him. During this pandemic, prayer has been a lifeline for us just as it was for the followers of Jesus. The meme could be rewritten for us today related to living with changes, fear, stress, losses, and the pandemic to say that, "They exist but will no longer control our lives." Our task now is to move on as a parish with the guidance of the Advocate and our congregational leaders. May God bless us as we move forward in new ways to do His work in our community and the world.

Ellen Rittenhouse

## LWR News

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the Quilt and Kits Ministry of LWR. We delivered 31 quilts and 22 personal care kits to Fargo for delivery to the warehouse in Minneapolis. We already have more quilts and care kits nearly complete for shipment in the fall. We will be gathering items for school kits in the months ahead. If you want to start gathering items, Karen Krump and I can give you a list of items needed as we move into summer and summer sales.

All volunteers are encouraged to join us for quilting or fellowship and support with the quilters on June 22 starting at 9 AM and going until early afternoon. No sewing is required.

*Ellen Rittenhouse*



## Emmanuel Lutheran Council Highlights

The Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council met on May 18, 2021. In attendance were Sharon Tschakert, Jessica Kappes, Craig Syvertsen, Tessa Tschakert, Donald Hestdalen, Fred Tol, Lesley Hulne, Lou Ann Lee, and Pastor Meggie. Pastor Meggie led us in devotions and prayer to open the meeting.

**Secretary Report:** The report was read and approved in a motion.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Meggie's visitations consisted mostly of shut-in and hospital visits. Confirmation class is wrapped up, with Casyn Syvertsen being confirmed at Emmanuel on May 23. Meggie has been training Lou Ann Lee, the new Office Administrator, and working on the transition into the summer schedule. Sharon moved to accept Meggie's mileage, Tessa seconded the motion, and it carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The financial report was presented by LouAnn and approved in a motion.

**Property Committee:** The new light fixtures look wonderful. Thank you Fred.

**Stewardship Committee:** The Committee met and is planning future events.

**Old Business:** None. **New Business:** The Wednesday night service on June 30 is scheduled in Galchutt and will be at 5:30pm. They will host a picnic following the service. A discussion was had on the best time to hold the summer Wednesday evening services. They are currently set for 6 PM on Wednesday evenings (except June 30, at 5:30 PM), but we will poll congregations to determine if a later time would be better. Kim Adams and Janelle Hansen will be conducting the Summer Services. There will be an informal meet and greet with a pastoral candidate on May 28. Both councils and the call committee are invited. The call committee will conduct an interview following a meal. The church laptops are outdated, slow and need replacing. LouAnn will get some prices. Craig Syvertsen will talk to Kelly Peterson about getting a bid to replace the basement windows in the parsonage. The steeple needs maintenance, including repair/replacement of the louvers. We will start a fund for this project. There are some dead trees in the church yard and LouAnn will get some bids for removal. The next meeting is June 23 after the 6 pm Wednesday Service. Craig moved to adjourn the meeting, Fred seconded the motion and it carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

*Secretary, Lesley Hulne*





**Thank you to the following for their recent memorials given in memory of Alden Bevre:**



**• Emmanuel General Fund**

- \* Alice Olzweski
- \* Brent & Mary Jo Larson
- \* Brian & Connie Folstad
- \* Butch & Mary Ihland
- \* Carol Sheridan
- \* Clay & Paula Hestdalen
- \* Craig & Deb Syvertsen
- \* Craig & Ila Myhre
- \* Darrel & Stephanie Liedahl
- \* Dave & Renee Gauslow
- \* Dennis & Barb Blilie
- \* Dennis & Lesley Hulne
- \* Dick & Sandra Ihland
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- \* Duaine Altman
- \* Ellen Rittenhouse
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- \* Gladys Nelson
- \* Glenda Adams
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- \* Jason & Tamara Frankl
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- \* Jerome Casperson
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- \* Ken & Jean Lindsey
- \* Kevin Austin
- \* Kinder Care
- \* Kurt & Karen Anderson
- \* Larry & Marguerite Ronsberg
- \* Larry Slinger
- \* Lavella Hanson & Lucille Egger
- \* Lester & Shirley Johnson
- \* Marilyn Hendrickson
- \* Marlow & Belva Haverland

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- \* Marilyn Hendrickson
- \* Marlowe & Belva Haverland
- \* Marynard & Diane Bjerke
- \* Matt & Julie Ihland
- \* Merrill & Steph Miranowski
- \* Michael & Nancy Haverland
- \* Michael & Sara Aigner
- \* Mike & Benea Freeberg
- \* Monte & Phyllis Gylland
- \* Morken family
- \* Neal & Janelle Johnson
- \* Pat & Al Otto
- \* Paul & Sue Leedahl
- \* Paul Aigner
- \* Rick Myron
- \* Robert Rostad
- \* Rollin & Jeannie Johnson
- \* Ron & Barb Strand
- \* Scott & Kathy Adams
- \* Sharon Rostad
- \* Sheila Bergerman
- \* Steve & Linda Gunness
- \* Steve & Stacy Haverland
- \* Stuart & Sheila Gunness
- \* Terry & Betty Anderson
- \* Tessa & Stu Tschakert
- \* Todd & Dawn Clarin
- \* Todd & Pam Johnson
- \* Todd & Rebecca Woodbury
- \* Tom & Inis Kay Frankl
- \* Wayne & Anna Haverland
- \* Wes & Shirley Berg

**• Emmanuel Cemetery Fund**

- \* Lynn & Beth Wold
- \* Judy Larson

**• Emmanuel Flooring Fund**

- \* Kevin & Colleen Paczkowski



Memorial Day is May 31th 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.



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

## Galchutt Lutheran Council Highlights

The Galchutt Church Council met on May 11 at 6:30 PM at the Galchutt Lutheran Church. Members present were Pamela Krump, Alex Paczkowski, Marissa Moxness, Doug Johnson, Logan Biffert, Daniel Dockter, and Pastor Meggie. Pamela called the meeting to order. Pastor Meggie led with a devotion and prayer. Alex read last month's secretaries report, there was no treasury report. Pastor Meggie had 438 miles for April; confirmation wrapped up for the year. There will be 3 students confirmed from Galchutt next year. Pastor Meggie has been training LouAnn Lee into the new secretarial role for the church. A photo of Pastor Meggie has been taken and will get hung up soon. There will be a graveside service for Darlene Leland on June 5th with lunch provided after. Pamela asked Pastor Meggie for a list of the homebound members. There was brief talk on how often we should do communion in the summer. There will be no Sunday services during the summer. There will be 1 service on Wednesday nights starting June 2nd in Galchutt and alternating between Emmanuel and Galchutt, no fellowship after. The council would like to start an outreach committee. This committee would reach out to new members and current members to participate. A virtual team is also in the works so we can livestream our services every week. Currently we have 5 viewing live and 50-60 views at a later time in the week. Pamela would like fellowship after church every Sunday starting in September. At a later date, we need to look into cleaning up the basement. Doug Johnson gave a mower update, the churches bought a 740R John Deere from RDO in Breckenridge. We are looking for committee members to plan the anniversary of St. John's church. Legion will have a service and meal during the Memorial Day services. A new directory will be in the works soon. June 30th there will be a picnic after Wednesday night church service. Council will provide meal. Service will be at 5:30 PM. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be June 30th.

*Alex Paczkowski, Secretary*

## "It's not just about me - it's about us"

Matuor Dot Alier is a social worker in North Dakota. A long, difficult journey — and the memory of his grandfather's words — brought him from a childhood in Africa to his life today.

Alier and his older brother were playing in the Nile River when Sudanese soldiers attacked their village. They fled with the crowd. After walking for many days without food and water, they arrived at a refugee camp in Ethiopia. He remembers seeing some children surrendering and dying of starvation and thirst. There were 26,000 of them walking; only 11,000 made it. They were called the "lost boys" and "lost girls." Leaving home due to war was heartbreaking. They thought they would be able to go back to their village within a couple days, then it was months, then years.

In 2006, Alier and his brother arrived in Philadelphia, where they were sponsored and supported by a Lutheran church. Upon moving to Fargo some years later, Alier and other Sudanese community members and the synod helped start a church where people who had survived war, emptiness, displacement and other traumas could find healing, joy, and love.


As a social worker, Alier states he sees God daily in the work he does and he feels he makes a difference. "My grandfather used to say, 'I cannot be whole unless everyone is whole,'" Alier shares. "I use this saying a lot to help me stay in a close relationship with others. It means that we need each other's support to survive and thrive. I don't want to be the only one doing well if others aren't doing well. It's not just about me — it's about us."

—To read the entire article found in the December 2020 Living Lutheran, go to <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2020/12/im-a-lutheran-matuor-dot-alier/>



# June 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Emmanuel Altar Guild for June:</b> <b>Gail Haarstad</b></p> <p>Emmanuel Altar Guild</p> 		1	2 Worship service at Galchutt @ 6 PM	3	4	5 Memorial Service for Darline Leland at 2 PM @ St. John's followed by lunch at Galchutt church
6 No Worship services	7 Memorial Service for Sally Cadaret @ Emmanuel @ 3 PM followed by fellowship at church.	8	9 Worship service at Emmanuel @ 6 PM with communion	10	11	12
13 No Worship services	14	15	16 Worship service at Galchutt @ 6 PM with communion	17	18 Echo articles due	19
20 No Worship services Happy Father's Day	21	22 Quilting at Emmanuel starting at 9 AM	23 Worship service at Emmanuel @ 6 PM Emmanuel council mtg after worship	24	25	26
27 No Worship services	28	29	30 Worship service at Galchutt @ 5:30 PM following by picnic meal; Galchutt council mtg after meal			

**Echo Editor:** Lou Ann Lee  
**Copy Editors:** Linda Kuruc & Gail Haarstad  
**Content Resources:** Pastor, Council Presidents & Secretaries, Ellen Rittenhouse, & our readers.

If you have an announcement for an event or photos from a 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](mailto:emmanuelgalchutt@gmail.com).

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*Just for Laughs.....*

