

The Echo

March 2023



It is easy to forget the wonder that surrounds us in the messiness of everyday. But perhaps as we approach the season of our Savior's rebirth, we can look around us with new eyes. Kate Bowler, in her book "The Lives We Actually Have," offers a blessing that can maybe lead to a little more happiness in all our lives:

"For this lovely day: God, this season has been such a slog that it's hard to remember what it was like to be surprised by wonder. I no longer notice the little things that used to stop me in my tracks, like the bird's song. Or the redbud's blossom. Or the twinkling sky. Or the sound of his laugh. Or their crinkly-nose smile. They have become white noise, a blur of details in my daily grind. Refresh me, oh God. Remind me of the loveliness found in today. Surprise me with the details I have lost the eyes to see.

Blessed are we, awakening from the boredom of routine, desiring to drink in from the beauty around us once again, full of love you have given us, the joy that is hidden among the reeds of the ordinary.

Blessed are we who desire to feel our hearts soar with the glory set in the heavens, the moon and the stars, with awe at the people right in front of us, with the beauty of the lily in its elegant purity, and the mystery and power of the tiniest seed busting to life as it was always destined to do.

This world you made. It is irreducibly sublime.

Blessed are we who ask for hearts that are soft, for eyes that are awake, for ears that are open, for hands to hold the wonder that is here now."

During this season of Lent, we will wonder and walk this journey with the Lord. We are being reminded of the blessings we take for granted daily. Join us for Wednesday night worship during Lent at 6:45 PM. Also join us Sunday mornings to journey through the book of Jonah.



God's peace and blessing to you,
Pastor Janelle Hansen



Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry Office: 701-553-8546

Synod Authorized Minister Janelle Hansen: thegempastor@gmail.com; 701-205-6803

Administrative Assistant: emmanuelgalchutt@gmail.com; Cell 701-640-0321

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

EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Come journey with us during Lent as we read through the book of Jonah on Sunday mornings. The theme is "Unfinished Out of the Depths."

Ash Wednesday, Jonah 1; God Calls and Persists (moved to February 26)

Lent 1, Feb. 26: Jonah 1; Psalm 139 Intercepted and Redirected

Lent 2, March 5: Jonah 2; Psalm 130 God in the Depths of Chaos

Lent 3, March 12: Jonah 3 Obedience and Preservation

Lent 4, March 19: Jonah 4 Faithful and Unfinished

Lent 5, March 26: Matthew 8:23-27 (cf. Mark 4:34-41; Luke 8:22-25) Jesus, a New Jonah

Baked Potato & Ham Dinner



Sunday, March 5, 2023
11:00 am-1:00 pm

At the Abercrombie Elementary School
Free Will Donation

Sponsored by the Bethany Free Lutheran Youth Group



Join us for fellowship and supper on Wednesday nights prior to the weekly Lenten service from 5:45 PM - 6:30 PM.

The Men's Club of Our Saviors Lutheran Church of Colfax, ND

FISH FRY
Friday, March 10th 5:30 to 7:00pm
@ Colfax Community Center
(Storm Date: Saturday, March 11th)

Cod Filet, Baked Potato, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Beverage & Dessert

Cost: Adults \$12 - Children 6-12 \$5.00
Kids 5 and under FREE

AMERICAN LEGION MEATBALL DINNER

(Meatballs, potatoes, gravy, vegetable, coleslaw, bread, dessert)

Sunday, March 12, 2023
Serving 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM
at the Abercrombie Community Hall
"Free Will Offering"

Sponsored by the
American Legion Post 128 - Abercrombie,
American Legion Post 282 - Galchutt,
& Sons of the American Legion Squadron 282

JOIN US FOR
PTO FUN NIGHT
March 24, 2023, 5-8pm
Richland High School in Colfax

Community Dinner
Baked potato bar with various meat and vegetarian topping options, mixed greens salad, chips, dessert, and a drink for \$10

Come for the dinner, stay for the fun!

- \$2,000 in raffle cash prizes (contact an elementary student or either school for tickets)
- New and classic Fun Night games
- Concessions available all night

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors!

LWR News

Another month of winter in Minnesota and North Dakota reminds us of the need for warm blankets or quilts. The same has been true in many other parts of the world during this unusual year and we are preparing to assist.

In planning for the quilt workday coming up on March 18, we have spent the past month cutting squares for many more new quilts. Won't you join us as we work to care for others around the world and here at home? We have received five completed quilts this month, so with continued efforts we are hoping to ship 30+ quilts in May to care for many who have been suffering from winter weather, war, earthquakes, and other disasters. Even if you aren't one who sews, there will be several tasks that don't involve actual sewing, so come and support those who are doing God's work.

Also coming up is the assembling of personal care kits. After taking an inventory of items needed for these kits, I find we need bath towels and 3 oz. bars of soap. Please bring your donations to the churches during the Lenten season. The personal care kits are especially needed in Ukraine, Turkey, and Syria where they have been seriously impacted in recent weeks and months.

Ellen Rittenhouse



Celebrate National Quilting Day!!

"Those who sleep under a quilt, sleep under a blanket of love."

The Emmanuel Lutheran Church invites you to come share in fellowship and spend the day working on quilts and quilt tops for those in need! The needs right now in Ukraine, Turkey, and Syria are so urgent and vital! We provide quilts to these areas through Lutheran World Relief and also to local groups in need.

No prior experience is needed! If you can cut, tie knots, or sew a straight line, you can help a world in need! If you are unable to attend but still want to help, monetary donations are always needed to purchase supplies. If you have an item you think may be used, call and check. There will be a potluck lunch at noon. Join us anytime between 9 AM and 2 PM (or so). All are welcome!

For more information, call Ellen Rittenhouse at 701-403-3772.





The following items are still needed for the Personal Care Kits to be sent in May to the countries affected by all the nationwide catastrophes:

- New light-weight bath-size towels (between 20" x 40" and 27" x 52"), dark color recommended.
- Bath-size bars of soap (3 oz.), any brand, in original packaging (2 or 3 are needed in each care kit).

Please bring your donated items to either church during the Lenten season. The items will be collected at the end of the Lenten season.

Thank you!!



Thanks to those who have contacted the office to let us know you would be willing to receive the *Echo* newsletter by email. The cost of postage just went up again in early 2023 so this helps a lot!

We know, however, that there are still several friends and members who do not use computers so need to receive the newsletter by regular mail. Thanks to those of you who have offered to sponsor the newsletter for a month so these people can continue to receive the *Echo*. At this time we have sponsorships available for May through December of 2023. The form to send in your donation for a sponsorship is on the back page of the newsletter. Thank you!!

Thank you to the following for their generous donations:

Galchutt Lutheran Church

In memory of Dan Erbes

Lynn & Vicki Syvertsen

In memory of Roger Quamme

Harold & Diane Freeman

Scott & Kathy Wenger

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In memory of Lois Moen

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St. John's Cemetery

In memory of Roger Quamme

Larry Wold



St. John's Cemetery

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Wes & Shirley Berg

Donald Hestdalen

Todd Hagen





SHAMROCK — St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, “Is this one leaf, or three?” Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.

Lighthearted blessings

- May the hinges of your friendship never grow rusty.
- May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights and the highway you travel be lined with green lights.
- As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.
- May you be in heaven a full half-hour before the devil knows you’re dead!
- May good luck be your friend in whatever you do, and may trouble be always a stranger to you.
- May the good saints protect you and bless you today, and may troubles ignore you each step of the way.

Mary’s “yes” calls us to love

On March 25, we remember the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel visits Mary to tell her she is to bear the Son of God, and she says yes. This day reminds all Christians of the time when the Virgin Mary was asked by the Lord to bring into the world a Savior who would be named Jesus.

In *Wholehearted Faith*, Rachel Held Evans writes: “I am a Christian not because of anything I’ve done but because a teenage girl living in occupied Palestine at one of the most dangerous moments in history said yes — yes to God, yes to a wholehearted call she could not possibly understand ... yes to a vision for herself and her little boy of a mission that would bring down rulers and lift up the humble, that would turn away the rich and fill the hungry with good things, that would scatter the proud and gather the lowly, yes to a life that came with no guarantee of her safety or her son’s. ... And through Mary’s example, God invites us to take the risk of love.”

Prove it!

In *Jesus Christ, Superstar*, King Herod mocks the bound prisoner who’s brought to his courtyard. “So, you are the Christ. You’re the great Jesus Christ!” he sings. “Prove to me that you’re no fool: Walk across my swimming pool!”

Likewise, the Pharisees demand evidence that Jesus is speaking for God (see Matthew 12:38). It’s easy to poke fun at them, but have you ever faced a tough decision and thought, “If only God would give me a sign”?

Jesus tells the religious teachers about the “sign of Jonah,” a metaphor for his upcoming death and resurrection. Though it’s meant to be a sign for all, not everyone accepts it as truth. Luke 16:31 notes that if the rich man’s brothers weren’t predisposed to listen to Moses and the prophets, then “they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead” (NIV). Signs are useful only to people who accept their messages and act accordingly.

Reprinted from newsletter.com—adapted from The Wired Word.



Logan Biffert *
Natalie Caulkins
David Fixen
Kyle Krump
Alan Muhs
James Overby
Larry Wold

Galchutt Lutheran Council Highlights

The Galchutt Lutheran Church council met on February 15 at 6:30 PM. Members present were Pastor Janelle, Logan Biffert, Al Muhs, Natalie Caulkins, Jim Overby, Kyle Krump, and David Fixen. Logan called the meeting to order. Pastor Janelle led us in devotions. The council held re-organization elections. Logan is President. Kyle is Vice President. Kendra is Treasurer. David is Secretary.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Janelle reported her January mileage. She conducted two funerals plus visits and phone calls. Pastor Janelle has five more weeks of Clinical Pastoral Education at Sanford Hospital. Pastor Janelle will be on vacation from February 28 until March 5. Pastor Sonja Kjar, Scott Fixen, and Natalie Caulkins will be filling in. There will be a Mardi Gras Hymn sing at the Fort Saloon on February 21 from 6-7 PM. The churches will provide Sandy's Donuts for dessert for that event. Ash Wednesday is February 22 at Emmanuel. There will be soup and sandwich supper prior to the Lenten services.

Old Business: The propane tank has been filled. The council will work with Kendra in looking into moving our Wells Fargo accounts to a different financial institution. The council decided not to proceed with a lift or ramp. Kyle will check on purchasing a new vacuum cleaner for the church.

New Business: With the closure of Melbergs, the church will need to be more organized with ordering church supplies. We will try to have fewer, but larger orders from Augsburg Fortress online. Pastor Janelle will offer First Communion classes in March, and they are open to any age. The First Communion will be at the Maundy Thursday service. The next meeting will be held March 20 at 6:30 PM.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, David Fixen

Emmanuel's February council meeting was cancelled due to the weather so there are no council minutes to report.

We keep the following in our prayers:

- ◆ The people of Turkey as they try to recover from the massive earthquake;
- ◆ The people of Ukraine as they continue to struggle with war;
- ◆ Marlowe, Alice, Micah, and Mary as they continue to deal with health issues;
- ◆ All our members and friends who may struggle with depression during these long winter months; and
- ◆ Our entire congregations as we enter the Lenten season.



Look for order forms in your bulletins in the coming weeks for the Easter lilies that can be ordered to place in our sanctuaries for Easter.

Palm Sunday is April 2nd and Easter Sunday is April 9th.



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 Lenten service @ Galchutt 6:45 PM (Soup/Sandwich supper 5:45-6:30 PM) Pastor Janelle gone	2 Pastor Janelle gone	3 Pastor Janelle gone	4 Pastor Janelle gone
5 Noisy Offering 9AM Galchutt worship 9:45AM SS at both churches 10:30AM Emmanuel worship Pastor Janelle gone	6	7 Office hours for pastor	8 Lenten service @ Emmanuel 6:45 PM (Soup/Sandwich supper 5:45-6:30 PM)	9	10	11
12 9AM Galchutt worship 10:30AM Emmanuel worship Daylight Savings Time Begins	13	14 Office hours for pastor	15 Lenten service @ Galchutt 6:45 PM (Soup/Sandwich supper 5:45-6:30 PM)	16	17	18 National Quilting Work Day at Emmanuel 9AM - 2PM
19 9AM Galchutt worship 9:45AM SS at both churches 10:30AM Emmanuel worship	20 Galchutt Council Meeting 6:30PM Echo articles due	21 Office hours for pastor	22 Lenten service @ Emmanuel 6:45 PM (Soup/Sandwich supper 5:45-6:30 PM)	23	24	25 Annunciation
26 9AM Galchutt worship 10:30AM Emmanuel worship	27	28 Office hours for pastor	29 Lenten service @ Galchutt 6:45 PM (Soup/Sandwich supper 5:45-6:30 PM)	30	31	

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Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry

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



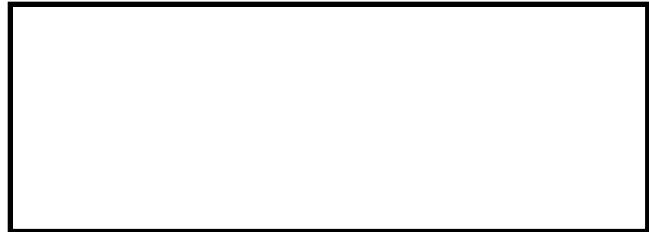
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Richard & Diane Ista

In loving memory of Melvin & Anna Overby,

Dale Overby, & David Overby



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Just for Laughs.....



The *Echo* is published monthly for members and friends of Galchutt-Emmanuel Ministry.
Newsletter Editor: Lou Ann Lee
Content Resources: Pastor, Ellen Rittenhouse, Linda Kuruc, Kendra Dockter, and Council Secretaries, & our members
Copy Editor: Linda Kuruc
Production Assistant: Jan Rorvig