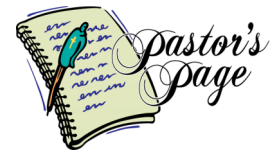


The Echo

January 2024



As we welcome in a new year, may we all recognize the light of Christ in our lives. In the book *Circle of Grace* by Jan Richardson, she writes about this light in "Where the Light Begins."

"Perhaps it does not begin. Perhaps it is always. Perhaps it takes a lifetime to open our eyes, to learn to see what has forever shimmered in front of us - the luminous line of the map in the dark. The vigil flame in the house of the heart, the love so searing we cannot keep from singing, from crying out in testimony and praise. Perhaps this day will be the mountain over which the dawn breaks. Perhaps we will turn our face toward it, toward what has been always. Perhaps our eyes will finally open in ancient recognition, willingly dazzled, illuminated at last. Perhaps this day the light begins in us."

God is the light in this dark world, John 1:5 tells us. "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." We should live in this light, helping when we are needed, listening when someone needs us, and always being an example in our service to others. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

As we point to Christ, we are called to point others to Christ and give God the glory. How will people see the light of Christ shine in you this year? How will you see yourself shining Christ's light in your life? Let us all shine Christ's light today and into the New Year 2024!

God's peace, Pastor Janelle

The LIGHT



Shines in the
darkness
& the darkness
did not
overcome it

John 1:5



Remember, you are always welcome to the Lord's Table because Christ calls all of us!



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Galchutt-Emmanuel had several exciting events in December, a few of which were captured in photo!



December 3 - The Preacher's Daughters were amazing in concert, as usual!!



December 17 - Sunday School Christmas programs.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship





From the
Editor

Thank you to everyone who stepped up and offered to sponsor a month of the *Echo* newsletter. Your response was amazing, thus resulting in only one month without a sponsor last year.

If you are receiving the newsletter by mail and would like to start receiving it by email, please email emmanuelgalchutt@gmail.com to let me know. Additionally, if you are receiving the newsletter by email, but have additional family members that would like to receive their own copy via

email, let me know.

Again, I welcome anyone who wants to draft an article for a future issue of the newsletter. This is your newsletter! I am truly thankful for Ellen Rittenhouse who was the first editor of the *Echo* newsletter in April 1976 and continues to provide articles. Thanks also to Linda Kuruc who proofreads the draft articles and Jan Rorvig who assembles those issues that are mailed to our readers. I somehow morphed into working with the *Echo* in about 2015 but would welcome anyone who wants to take over as editor. An understanding of Microsoft Publisher would get you on your way! Thanks to all the support everyone has given in providing this newsletter to our members and friends. Happy New Year!

Lou Ann Lee

Some Thoughts and Quotes on Stewardship

As our councils prepare the church budgets and anticipated expenses for 2024, here is some food for thought for our members.

God loves each of us, longs for each of us; and God's grace abounds. That kind of love and grace require a response on our part. Jesus Christ invites us to follow Him, and to work as Christ's heart and hands in the world to bring about God's kingdom. God invites us to trust in God's abundance, and to be generous in response. Faith in God's love and abundance can make us joyful and hopeful, and it frees us from fear and insecurity. Money can be a tool, or it can be a trap; we release the spiritual power money has over us by being generous. Here are some quotes on financial stewardship:



"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." **Winston Churchill.**

"I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed my first salary, which was \$1.50 a week." **John D. Rockefeller, Sr.**

"The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord." **James L. Kraft, founder of Kraft Foods.**

How much should I give? Only you can decide. Some people focus on proportional giving or giving a percentage of their monthly or annual giving. For others, the goal is to give the Biblical tithe, or ten percent. Some people choose to think in terms of a weekly amount, asking *"What do I spend each week on coffee, food, entertainment, gasoline, clothes and the like--and how does this compare with what I am willing to give my church?"* Giving is a spiritual practice, and the goal is to be both responsible and generous.

Just as we all like to know that our salaries or income will be consistent, so it is the same with the church finances. Please prayerfully consider setting aside an amount each month, either through in person or online giving, for your church in 2024.

Taken in part from <https://www.goodshepherdreading.org/stewardship.html>

Landscape

Since early in the Advent season, I've noticed the word "landscape" appearing frequently to me in different contexts, from the road Joseph and Mary took to Bethlehem to recent images from James Webb Space Telescope as it reached the outer limits of our solar system, and it made me think. We tend to notice changes in the landscape around us when we move or travel from one place to another, especially when it's very different from what we've grown accustomed. Certain landscapes are welcoming and comforting while others can cause fear and angst, but it's through this change of scenery that our environment can become more alive and maybe also challenge us and help us grow.

The landscape Joseph and Mary traveled through must have been a difficult one in ancient Israel since Mary was in her last days of pregnancy and riding a donkey couldn't have been pleasant. More recently, our ancestors journeyed from Norway and other parts of the world to America to be encountered by exciting times and hardships that were not easily forgotten. And lately, the James Webb Space Telescope has delivered a look back millions of years to a big, beautiful landscape of a time closer to the Big Bang that none of us could have visited on our own.

This caused me to ponder the moves I've made in my lifetime and the one to come. These landscapes, in the broad sense, continue to influence and shape my life. My paternal grandparents emigrated as teenagers from the mountains of Norway during a time of hardship. As I look back on their life history, they were introverts whose lives revolved around their extended family and the church. My father's generation reached out and explored a bit more but when asked about going back to Norway to visit relatives, he wasn't interested but always welcomed their visits to America. After completing school, I vacationed in Colorado where I felt a closeness to the mountains that I couldn't understand at the time until I visited relatives in Norway and saw the landscape my roots come from. Recently I have been asked if I'm excited about moving to the city. Since my rural roots go back generations, I feel some trepidation but also an excitement to explore something different.

However, I'm not the only one relocating. We often hear about the movement of people from one part of the planet to another, without considering that they must feel scared and anxious about their new surroundings. We, however, can help them acclimate to their new landscape. We have many opportunities to welcome and support them in our communities and churches. We can also support them by sharing God's love through the work of Lutheran World Relief.

What part of this landscape calls to you? I expect to find new opportunities to share God's love and support in the years ahead wherever I find myself, through friendships, quilting, and who knows?

Ellen Rittenhouse



Here we are in the New Year. After taking a month off and receiving more donations for the quilting projects, we will resume work on January 9 from 9 AM to 2 PM, weather permitting. With the busyness of the last month, the quilt kits did not get displayed but will be available for pickup in the dining hall for anyone who wants to sew tops at home.

Ellen Rittenhouse



Craig Syvertsen *
Katrina Heyen
Lou Ann Lee
Julie Lehman
Fred Tol
Sharon Tschakert
Tessa Tschakert

Emmanuel Lutheran Council Highlights

The Emmanuel Church council met on December 12, 2023, with the following members present: Pastor Janelle, Craig Syvertsen, Fred Tol, Sharon Tschakert, Katrina Heyen, and Lou Ann Lee. Julie Lehman also joined during part of the meeting. Pastor Janelle started the meeting with devotions.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Janelle reported on her visitations, both in person and by telephone. She traveled to the Veterans Home in Lisbon and to the Milnor conference in addition to her regular visits. She reported her mid-year evaluation is due this week. She will graduate from Wartburg College on May 12. Her last class goes from February through part of April. Internship will be done June 15. Her mileage for November was 434 miles. Lou Ann made a motion to approve mileage with a second by Fred. All approved.

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report from the November meeting was read by Katrina in Tessa's absence. Lou Ann made a motion to approve with a second by Sharon. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Lou Ann presented the treasurer's report showing where our expenses are compared to the 2023 budget. She reported the propane has recently been filled and all other monthly bills are paid up to this date. We did several maintenance updates this fall that were included. A comparison of the summer offerings between 2022 and 2023 showed they were considerably higher in 2023 when worship was held every Wednesday, rather than alternating Sundays with Galchutt. The results of the meatball dinner was given, and it was a very good year with the bake sale and dinner both taking in more than usual. Craig paid for the balance of the meat that was not covered by the \$250 Thrivent action card donated by Wes and Shirley Berg. Sandra Imland donated the buns. The ticket sales were more this year since 250 more tickets were printed. Thanks to all who sold, particularly Julie, Taz, and Tessa. We had two \$250 Thrivent action gift cards that Michael Lee applied for that were used for expenses for the Preacher's Daughters concert and the Advent event. Lou Ann report that the cemetery savings and checking accounts are almost depleted since we have not received many memorials this year as a result of fewer funerals.

Stewardship: No report other than the results of the meatball dinner.

Education: Katrina reported Sunday School is going well, and they are preparing for the Christmas program on December 17.

Worship: Meeting with the Galchutt members on December 31 to select songs through Easter.

Property: Fred looked at the lights in the kitchen, particularly the ones that keep going on and off. He checked into the cost of replacing those six lights and it would be \$80 each. Sharon made a motion to go ahead, with a second by Lou Ann. All approved.

Old Business: Council terms were discussed. We will need one council nominee to replace Tessa. The annual meeting will be Sunday, January 7, 2024, after worship and a potluck dinner.

New Business: The budget for 2024 was reviewed with the new proposed amounts decided on that will be presented at the annual meeting in January. It was also decided to make year-end donations to CHI Hospice, Richland 44 backpack program, Richland Wilkin Food Pantry, Richland Hot Lunch program, and Synod/Crossroads. The Lenten schedule was discussed with Ash Wednesday on February 14, 2024. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. *Lou Ann Lee, Secretary Pro Tem*





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 December 5 at 7 PM. Members present were Pastor Janelle, Kyle Krump, David Fixen, Larry Wold, Logan Biffert, Al Muhs, Jim Overby and treasurer Kendra Dockter. President Logan called the meeting to order. Pastor Janelle led us in devotions.

The council approved the minutes of the November 8th meeting. Pastor Janelle had 434 miles in November. She attended the Wahpeton conference meeting and was out to the Veterans Home in Lisbon. Pastor Janelle brought caramel rolls out to the elevator in Galchutt and visited with the coffee crowd. The lock-in with the kids went well. The council approved the treasurer's report.

There was no update on the steeple shingles. The outlet behind the fridge will not be used. The fridge will be plugged into the adjacent outlet. Bremer Bank would like to see that a second person be added to the church accounts. The council decided to add David Fixen to the church accounts.

Tecta America roofing contractor was out to inspect and replace some seam areas over the Sunday school addition. There was a product recall on the material used in the seams. This will not change the roof's warranty. The council put together a proposed budget for the annual meeting. **The annual meeting will be held January 31 at 6:30 PM.** Pastor Janelle will graduate from the seminary on May 12. Her internship will be completed on June 15. The call committee can be organized and have their paperwork done before May.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, David Fixen

Many thanks to the following for their recent donations:

Galchutt Lutheran Church

- Richard & Diane Ista – In honor of Eileen Overby

Emmanuel Sunday School

- Rose Adair, Thrivent Choice dollars

Emmanuel General Fund

- Wes & Shirley Berg, in memory of Lyle & Lois Picotte
- Sandra (Skamfer) Smith, Thrivent Choice dollars
- Geir & Sarah (Gunness) Ostrem
- John & Florence Bjorke, in memory of Waldo & Anna Bjorke and Lois Ann Bjorke
- Susan Rothwell, in memory of Rolf Bjorke
- Allen & Jesse Berg, in memory of Janet Kinneberg



We keep the following in our prayers:

- ◆ All those undergoing medical treatment or health issues, including those for addiction or depression; and
- ◆ Our church councils and congregations as they prepare for the new year.



Proof of light



On January 6 Christians celebrate Epiphany, when the Magi came to worship baby Jesus. Epiphany, which means an appearance or manifestation, symbolizes the first recognition of the Savior by non-Jews. Because Epiphany also is a reminder that Jesus came as the light of the whole world, its symbols include light, candles and a star.

How did the wise men know — and how do we know — that Jesus is the light of the world? As preacher George Buttrick said, “It would little avail to ask how we know. That would be like asking how we know that Beethoven’s ‘Hymn to Joy’ is joyous. If a man were to say, ‘It is not joyous to me,’ he would not condemn the music; he would tell only his morbidness. There is no logic to establish an axiom, for an axiom is the basis of all logic; and the soul of Jesus has axiomatic truth. Jesus is light, and there is no proof for light except light itself.”

Taken from newsletternewsletter.com



The meaning of Epiphany

Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means “an appearance” or “a revealing.” Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12th day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the wise men, who were Gentiles. Jesus’ first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.

On the church calendar, the Epiphany season lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.

Taken from newsletternewsletter.com



Predictions for the new year

Author Ronald Wilson, in *Stretching the Soul*, describes being certain that four things will occur in the days ahead.

- Trouble will come. Life is difficult. I must mourn as well as dance.
- In this long journey [of life], I’m not in control. God has reminded us of this.
- Many times I will fail.
- I will find forgiveness and get up and go on. God will wipe up the mess I’ve made of things, take me by the hand and set me back on the right path.

Praise God for his sure presence during the joys and challenges the new year brings!

Emmanuel 2023 Raffle Winners. *Red denotes prizes donated back to church.

DONOR 2023	PRIZE 2023	WINNER 2023	DONOR 2023	PRIZE 2023	WINNER 2023
Galchutt Seed	Dewalt Cordless	Adam Shuck	Marlowe & Belva Haverland	Fleece Blanket	Bruce Johnson
Paz's Service	\$250.00 GC to Paz's	Joyce Cooper	Jeff Syvertsen	NDSU Bison Print	Sheryl Ask
Conzemius Oil	\$150.00 Cash	Scott Olerud	Jeff Syvertsen	NDSU Bison Print	Tim Rick Kressin
Craig & Debbie Syvertsen	Lap Quilt	Biance Berseth	Crooked Lane Farm	2 ft. x 2 ft. Barn Quilt	Timmy Barth
Jeff Syvertsen	\$100.00 Cash	Lesley Hulne	Crooked Lane Farm	6 Summer Concert	Jackie Brand
Aurora - Plumbing, Heating	\$100.00 Cash	John Tschakert	Sandra Ihland	Holiday Décor	Jay Anderson
Aurora - Plumbing, Heating	\$100.00 Cash	Durlyn Herman	Sandra Ihland	Holiday Décor	Nicky Besette
Northland Truss Systems	\$100.00 Cash	Ashley Syvertsen	Fargo Force	4 Force Tickets	Kelly Hasbargan
Sharon Tschakert	GC to Buds,Blooms	Mason Vogeler	Scheels	\$50.00 GC	Bruce Slinger
Red River Communications	Local Business Gift	Jean Akers	Breckenridge Drug	Holiday Basket	Heather Ouse
Julie Lehman	\$50.00 Cash	Ryan Berg	Sharon Tschakert	\$25.00 Cash	Crystal Gast
Julie Lehman	\$50.00 Cash	Amy Lehman *	Sharon Tschakert	\$25.00 Cash	Craig Syvertsen
Glenda Adams	\$50.00 Cash	Jim Tschakert	Sharon Tschakert	\$25.00 Cash	Steven Nelk
Glenda Adams	\$50.00 Cash	Justin Riveland	Sharon Tschakert	\$25.00 Cash	Carla Sheely *
Michael & Lou Ann Lee	\$50.00 Cash	Marlowe Haverland	Hammond Excavating	\$25.00 Cash	Tom Steinolfson
Michael & Lou Ann Lee	\$50.00 Cash	Crystal Gast	Hammond Excavating	\$25.00 Cash	Lars Lee *
C-W Valley, Wolverton	\$50.00 Cash	Ricky Clark *	Hammond Excavating	\$25.00 Cash	Alyssa Lynaugh
Dennis & Lesley Hulne	\$50.00 Cash	Gordy Kessler	Hammond Excavating	\$25.00 Cash	Dick Dickerson
Dennis & Lesley Hulne	\$50.00 Cash	Don Hestdalen	Wes & Shirley Berg	\$25.00 Cash	Elaine Maddock
Reiland Bros Plumbing	\$50.00 Cash	Heather Ouse	Wes & Shirley Berg	\$25.00 Cash	Velda Koltes
Sheryl Ask	\$50.00 Cash	Ashley Syvertsen	Wes & Shirley Berg	\$25.00 Cash	Romel Moen
Sheryl Ask	\$50.00 Cash	Wendell Odegaard	Wes & Shirley Berg	\$25.00 Cash	Sheryl Ask
Doug & Gail Haarstad	\$50.00 Cash	Lacy Etkers	Ruth Klein	\$25.00 Cash	Sarah Kummer
Doug & Gail Haarstad	\$50.00 Cash	Karen Krump	Ruth Klein	\$25.00 Cash	Ben Ihland
Minn-Kota Ag Products,	\$50.00 Cash	LouAnn Lee	Taz Foley & Jason Rinnels	\$25.00 GC to Fort	Carol Krump
Minn-Kota Ag Products,	\$50.00 Cash	Kevin Zick	Taz Foley & Jason Rinnels	\$25.00 GC to Fort	Stu Tschakert
Ellen Rittenhouse	\$50.00 Cash	Andy Nudell *	Fort Saloon Bar & Grill	\$25.00 GC	Don Hestdalen
Ellen Rittenhouse	\$50.00 Cash	Ryan Berg	Fort Saloon Bar & Grill	\$25.00 GC	Julie Ihland
Beyer Seed	\$50.00 Cash	Tim Barth	Fort Saloon Bar & Grill	\$25.00 GC	Guy Miller
Beyer Seed	\$50.00 Cash	Nick Beyer	Fort Saloon Bar & Grill	\$25.00 GC	Ray Morgan
Judy Larson	\$50.00 Cash	Pat Winter	Antelope Creek Bar & Grill	\$25.00 GC	Al Anderson
Judy Larson	\$50.00 Cash	Scott Birchfield *	Antelope Creek Bar & Grill	\$25.00 GC	Don Hestdalen
Stu & Tessa Tschakert	\$50.00 Cash	Nick Beyer	Antelope Creek Bar & Grill	\$25.00 GC	Fred Tol
Stu & Tessa Tschakert	\$50.00 Cash	Nicky Besette	Antelope Creek Bar & Grill	\$25.00 GC	Rick Knast
Sophie Grace Photography	\$50.00 Cash	Tahnje Affield	Antelope Creek Bar & Grill	\$25.00 GC	Jay Anderson
Vantage Bank	\$50.00 Cash	Adam Potter	Antelope Creek Bar & Grill	\$25.00 GC	Dean Kappes
Vantage Bank	\$50.00 Cash	Jenni Rosin	Antelope Creek Bar & Grill	\$25.00 GC	Marlowe Haverland
Beyer Insurance	\$50.00 Cash	Randy Monson	Antelope Creek Bar & Grill	\$25.00 GC	Georg Almand
Beyer Insurance	\$50.00 Cash	Kevin Zick	Econo	\$25.00 GC	Matt Kapanaw *
Beyer Insurance	\$50.00 Cash	LouAnn Lee	Hair Hut	Gift Set	Stella Helm
Beyer Insurance	\$50.00 Cash	Bill Gauslow	Aber Grocery	\$20.00 GC	Brandon Johnson
Beyer Insurance	\$50.00 Cash	Sheryl Ask	Aber Grocery	\$20.00 GC	Sheryl Ask *
Ruth Klein	\$50.00 Cash	Jeff Miller	M&H - Wahpeton	2 x Car Wash	Ramona Zimmerman
Tim & Tracy Nordick	\$50.00 Cash	Jim Tschakert	M&H - Wahpeton	2 x Car Wash	Lori Nord
Marlowe & Belva Haverland	Wine Basket	Sharon Tschakert			



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 Happy New Year.	2	3 7th-8th Confirmation 3:30 - 5 PM	4	5	6
7 Communion Galchutt Worship 9 AM SS 9:45 AM Emmanuel SS 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM POTLUCK AND ANNUAL MEETING	8	9 Emmanuel Quilting 9 AM - 2 PM	10 No confirmation	11	12	13
14 Galchutt Worship 9 AM SS 9:45 AM Emmanuel SS 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM	15	16	17 7th-8th Confirmation 3:30 - 5 PM	18	19	20
21 Communion Galchutt Worship 9 AM SS 9:45 AM Emmanuel SS 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Thrill Hills meet 12:30PM 9th Conf in West Fgo @ 7PM	22 Internship Meeting @ Galchutt 6 PM	23	24 7th-8th Confirmation 3:30 - 5 PM 9th Conf. 6 PM Painting party with Michelle Walka at Galchutt Church 6:30 - 8 PM	25	26	27
28 Galchutt Worship 9 AM SS 9:45 AM Emmanuel SS 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM	29	30	31 GALCHUTT ANNUAL MEETING @ 6:30 PM			

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Gunness, Edna Strand, Gordon & Lois
Gunness, Glenn Moen



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Just for Laughs.....



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