

Living Faith Through Community, Dialogue & Service

October 2017 www.ecmum.org



Emmaus students on our fall camping trip

Salt and Light

There is a blanket of weariness and concern by many around us. Maybe its a response to fires, hurricanes, threats and reports of war, white-supremacy rallies, ongoing racist incidents, and regularlife. It's hard to absorb these things and not be weary. It is in these times that faith communities can make a difference. Jesus tells us to "let your light shine" and to be "salt of the earth". In both cases Jesus is calling us live into his vision of community in which all people have enough

food, shelter, value and worth to have a dignified life. In Matthew 13 in the Sermon on the Mount he says, "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot." To be salt is to be essential and provide goodness in the world. It is to be an agent of healing and preserving that which needs preservation. Salt is active and engaged with the elements of the world to make it a better place. The song This Little Light of Mine may evoke Sunday School or VBS memories, but when Jesus tells us to "let your light shine", he is asking us to be a vocal and visible sign of sanctuary, hope and change for those who are the most marginalized and distressed in our society. To really be light in the world, we are called to build communities of compassion and action. It is in faith-based and grass-roots community that we have the power and capacity to illuminate the injustices around us and to act boldly to help create the social change that is needed. This fall we are having conversations about what it means to be church, and what it might mean to be salt and light and how we can be part of that work. As I take stock of this work I feel like we are blessed with many partners and collaborations of community organizing. These include:

- 1. Our denominational (ELCA and beyond) networks of congregations, leaders and clergy that work together on many projects and campaigns.
- 2. Our statewide networks; the Montana Association of Christians and the Montana Interfaith Network.
- 3. Our local Missoula Ministerial Association of congregational pastors and leaders.
- 4. Family Promise and Missoula Interfaith Collaborative that houses homeless families and is building a vision and partnership with the YWCA for a larger family housing and domestic violence facility in Missoula along with more resources.
- 5. SALAM (Standing Alongside America's Muslims) continues to have passion and energy to build relationships, provide educational and social events, and to respond to hatred towards Muslims.
- 6. Faith and Climate Action is building local and statewide faith-based climate change and environmental networks, conferences, and action to help bring about social change.
- 7. Missoula anti-racism coalition: we are in the early stages of forming a community-wide coalition of non-profits, faith communities, and campus groups who are committed to education, trainings, and action in response to ongoing racism.

These are all groups providing opportunities for salt and light. Maybe you are looking for a group to engage with. Please let me know and I will get you connected to the right people.



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Many thanks to Pastor Doug Petson for serving the past 6+ years on the Emmaus board! He will be missed, along with the homemade cookies he brought!!

Emmaus Campus Ministry is a ministry of ELCA Lutherans in partnership with the Episcopalians and United Church of Christ. We are a Reconciled in Christ Ministry, welcoming students of all perspectives and identities.



We are now seeking sponsorships from local businesses as well as donations for live and silent auction items.

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Upcoming Events



Confluence is a faith community open to all ages and perspectices. Includes a meal, discussion, and spiritual practice.

Meets from 6-8pm on Sundays at Fmmaus House.

October Topics:

- -Living in a Global World
- Why did the Reformation Matter?
- How is the Church Reforming Today?

FB: @confluencemissoula

Tues, Oct. 17 and all week: Emmaus Family Promise help week: working at Atonement Lutheran Church, Emmaus student will help cook, play with kids and stay overnight 2-3 nights.

Rick Steve's Luther and the Reformation; Sun, Oct. 22nd, 7pm at the Roxy an open screening for all of our partner churches to come and remember and celebrate the events of 500 years ago. Panel discussion to follow.

<u>Communicating Climate Change</u> Mon, October 23rd, 6-8pm presentation and workshop offered by Faith and Climate Action Missoula. Join us for a meal, learn proven strategies for communicating effectively about climate change, and consider how we can faithfully and authentically use these strategies to inspire action in our own contexts. We'll also hear from community members about opportunities to put concern for creation into action today.

Sustainable Farming Field Trip

Fri-Sat, Oct. 27-28: Sustainable Farming and Local Foods in Montana, overnight field trip the weekend of October 27-28. We will visit a farm in Fort Benton to focus on farms, farming, sustainability, and the local food movement in Montana. We'll drive up at 4 pm on Friday, spend the night in Fort Benton, tour the farm on Saturday, and be back to Missoula by 9 pm on Saturday. This is one of the farms featured in our First-Year Reading Book, Lentil Underground.



Above: Casey at his Farm

Mon, Oct. 30: Reformation joint worship service between Roman Catholics and Lutherans at the amazing St. Helena Cathedral in Helena. Guest preachers include



the regional bishops of both denominations. We are taking a bus, or two, from Missoula with Catholics and Lutherans from the different churches. Cost is \$20 and will include dinner. Who wants to go?

Fly Fishing, Beer Brewing and Bread Making retreat at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. Fri-Sun, Nov. 3-5 Come for one night or two for this time of relaxation, friends, food, and grounding.

All Area Middle School Youth Event

Thursday, November 9th from 5-10pm. This event will be hosted by our partner churches and Emmaus students and will include dinner, games, service projects, deeper conversations and a Bible study, and a camp style worship. All middle school youth are invited to join!

Community Updates

SALT & LIGHT

A student community focused on grounding, questions, service, leadership, justice, and vocation. Wednesday nights 7-8pm at Emmaus House



Book Drive for the Missoula

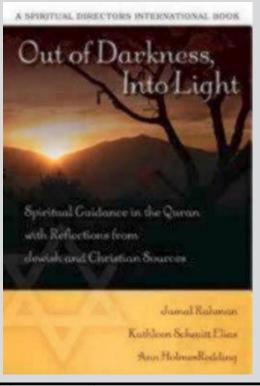
County Jail

As part of her masters of social work practicum in the county jail, Kathleen Heiskell is doing a paperback book drive. They are looking for books that are inspiring, hopeful, moving, or otherwise appropriate for the incarcerated community. Books can be dropped off at Emmaus.

Out of Parkness... Into Light

SALAM is partnering with the University of Montana's DiverseU event to bring Ann Holmes Redding to Missoula. Ann is a former Episcopal priest who was defrocked for having become Muslim and has spent years addressing issues of interfaith, peace, race and gender. Ann will be speaking at the DiverseU banquet on November 1st and will also be leading a free workshop titled "Making Peace with Religion" on November 2nd.

The goal of Out of Darkness into Light is, as the authors write, "to lead from the first impulse to seek spiritual direction to the final stage of a soul peacefully surrendered in service to the Holy One by whatever name you wish to use. Quranic verses are supplemented by sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, the words



of Rumi and other Sufi poets, and relevant quotations and insights from Jewish and Christian sources. The book also offers practical suggestions for expanding and strengthening one's spiritual sinews."

Part One: Spiritual Guidance; Thur. Oct. 5th 6:30 to 8:30, Jeannette Rankin Peace Center

Part Two: Mysteries of Life; Thur. Oct. 12th 6:30-8:30, Emmaus House

Part Three: The Path of Surrender; Thur. Oct. 19th 6:30-8:30, Har Shalom

Final Discussion & Potluck; Thur. Oct. 26th 6:30 to 8:30, St. Paul Lutheran Church

Ways to Support Emmaus

Emmaus remains a solvent ministry because of many volunteers and the gracious giving of the Montana Synod, partner

congregations, and individual donors. Your help makes a big difference!

- ✓ *Volunteer:* We have a very active building and grounds crew who do most of the repairs and maintenance of our two buildings. New volunteers are always welcomed!
- ✓ Cook a meal: We offer one meal per week to our student group which is usually cooked by fellow students. Having a guest cook and participant is a welcomed gift!
- √ Donate items to Oktoberfest: We are still collecting live and silent auction items for our October 29th event.
- ✓ Donate financially to Oktoberfest: Our goal is to raise \$20k at our fall fundraiser. We hope to have \$5k total in challenge gifts prior to the event and raise the rest that night and beyond. Your gift before, during or after the event will help us reach our goal!
- √ Thrivent Choice Dollars: We have a number of donors who direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Emmaus. This is a great way for Thrivent members to support us!
- √ Thrivent Action Team Grants: We also have many events coming up that would work perfectly for a Thrivent Action Team grant of \$250. If you are a Thrivent member you get two grants per year to apply for. If you haven't used them up for 2017 yet, please call Pastor John, or perhaps consider us for 2018.

Meet the Residents

Maya Overman grew up as a true Lutheran in Minnesota. Maya is studying elementary education with hopes of someday teaching English abroad. Maya is one of our Salt and Light leaders as well.

Alishka Gusky is a Missoula raised Episcopalian who is studying elementary education. She enjoys singing, drawing and eating Big Dipper ice cream. Alisha is a group leader around outreach worship and our weekly

Salt and Light group.



Liz Peden comes from Corvallis, MT and is a junior getting her degree in social work. Liz also serves as a Friends in Need coordinator.



Kathleen Heiskell, from Spokane, is getting her masters in social work degree. She is working as our resident coordinator and is serving on the Emmaus board. Kathleen is currently working at the Missoula County Jail for her field work.



Micah Drew is a Senior Journalism major form Boise Idaho and is currently running cross county. He enjoys growing bonsai plants and is currently serving on the ELCA national youth gathering planning team.



Sadie Ayers is a junior transfer from the University of Alabama studying Environmental Studies and excited to play in the mountains. Sadie spent this past summer working at an Episcopal Bible Camp.



Soren Ormseth is a Senior studying Math and Physics, from First Presbyterian Church in Great Falls, MT. He enjoys skiing, tennis, golf, frisbee, camping and spending time with friends and family.

August Sag



Abby Lynes grew up in Great Falls and is a senior studying journalism. She likes writing and being outdoors, and is one of our leadership coordinators for retreats and Confluence this year.



Tucker Costain comes from Helena, MT and is a senior studying Cellular and Molecular Biology, as well as English. He is a runner and a cyclist, dabbling in cyclocross racing and trail racing this fall and will graduate in December.



Ilona Csik is a recent graduate from Boise, ID. She has a degree in biology and is now working for a local brewery as a biologist and quality controller for the brewing process. Ilona is one of our Friends in Need coordinators.



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Alumni News...



Congratulations to Alex Duncan (2008-12, 14-17) and Adam Blythe who are getting married on Oct. 7th.



Congratulations to Eamon Ormseth and Colter Murphy who are both in the beginning weeks of their ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission year abroad. Colter is in Cambodia and you can follow his blog at https://colterincambodia.wordpress.com/2017/09/18/sweating-the-not-so-small-stuff/ Eamon is settled in Bethlehem and you can follow his blog at https://www.smore.com/9qvf6-

a-montanan-on-a mission

Congratulations to Luke Stappler (2008-12) and Amanda Stappler (Brateng) (2015-17) who were married on July 1st with Pastor John officiating.

