

Residents wanted!

Know a student who wants to live in an accepting, close-knit, Christian community, across the street from UM? Contact John or Kristen!

Finding Your People



By Rev. John Lund

As we reached the end of this trying year, students reflected on the importance of having the Emmaus resident community still intact.

In a time of isolation and digital classes, it meant a lot to be able to meet with real people over shared meals and have deeper conversations about struggles and family and life choices and politics and faith. They realized how important it is to have a trusted group with whom you can talk openly and honestly and process the important things over time. It also felt good to be part of something bigger than themselves.

The truth is we all need people we can do this with, and it needs to be more than a Facebook or social media group. We need real people who are committed

to each other to talk about real life. For me, this is part of what I hope a church family to be: a safe place where diverse people can come as their full self in deeper conversation, reflection, and contemplation as they carry and experience the joys and hardships of life together. A church community also offers a narrative of hope and possibility that is outside of ourselves as well as room for failure, forgiveness, renewal, and rebirth. These are the things that enrich and deepen our lives and help us live with direction, intention and courage for a greater good around us.

This year we are sending out a larger number of graduates into the world. When I asked them where they would find their group, most were not sure. They could only say that it is important and that they would have to find it. They will likely build friendship groups through work, sports, hobbies and maybe volunteerism. But my guess is that it won't be the same without the focus on that hopeful narrative.

I don't know if they will have the courage to walk through the doors of a church. If they do, I wonder if they will find that community they will be searching for. Will we have a place for their concerns for the world and their questions? Will they be accepted and loved and given a chance to share and learn and grow with others? Is there a way they can be part of something bigger and meaningful and healing? They have passion and skills and they are ready to go big in this world. Are we ready for them?



Save the Date!

Oktoberfest is back, October 24!

We look forward to safely gathering again to celebrate the work of Emmaus Campus Ministry.

It's not too early to brainstorm donations to the auction! Are you a quilter or a woodworker? Do you enjoy taking people out to hunt or fish? Do you have a cabin or vacation rental to offer for a weekend?

Share your resources and help raise funds to sustain Emmaus! Contact Kristen at ecmumt@gmail.com.

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Intern Pastor

Rebekah Cochran

Seminary Intern

Rai Combs

Anti-Racism Organizer

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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.



Farewell, Friends!

Brendan Howell graduated in Wildlife Biology. After climbing around the American west for a few months he plans to move east for work.

Brooke Pefley finished her pre-med studies. She plans to eventually apply to med school with the goal of working with Doctors without Borders and first hopes to live outside the states.

Daniel Duesing is leaving Missoula to share his gifts working with at-risk youth in Denver near his hometown of Colorado Springs.

James Bradley graduated with a degree in Journalism and is pondering his next steps.

Emily Walling finished her degree in Japanese last December and will be moving to Japan to teach English as soon as possible.

Jeremiah Ormseth is finishing a degree in Computer Science. After his post-graduation road trip with Leonard he will be moving to Helena for a programming job.

Kelsey Noble is graduating with a degree in Elementary Education. She will work at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp for her second summer, then move to North Carolina to teach for a few years.

Laura Grooms will finish her degree in Anthropology and Media Arts in December. She hopes to live abroad on a study program this fall.

Leonard Ormseth graduated in Environmental Sciences with an emphasis in Hydrology. This summer he'll work for Emmaus and adventure with the Emmaus crew. Next the possibilities are endless!

Featured Ways to Give

Volunteer to help with renovating and maintenance! Maybe your church or group can adopt a project and organize the work. Or join up with Pastor John's crew. Tools and training provided. Contact John.

Apply for a Thrivent Action Team Grant to support a summer outdoor adventure or one of our renovation projects! If you are a Thrivent member you can apply for two \$250 grants each year. Contact John.

Donate an auction item for Oktoberfest! Contact Kristen.

Make a donation to support our Faith and Climate Action and Anti-Racism internships.

Donate via mail or **visit ecmum.org** to see all the ways to give!

Many thanks to outgoing board members **Allen Sasser-Goehner** and **Lee Christianson!** Both have served the past six years on the Emmaus board, with Allen serving as president and Lee vice-president the past three years. They have been giving their time, wisdom, and resources to help keep the mission and ministry of Emmaus alive and well. Thank you Allen and Lee!

Alumni News

Halle (Wilson) Fusaro ('15) and spouse Wiley had a baby boy, Briggs Peter Fusaro, on March 18, 2021!



Lori (Lynch) Mohl ('13) and spouse Haiden welcomed Clara Jean on May 11, 2021!

Annela Rova ('12) and spouse Reese welcomed Ilmari Rova on April 25, 2021! Annela is also finishing seminary intern year in Arizona through Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and will be open for call this summer!



Rev. Stacey (Siebrasse) Heggem ('06) married Lance in August 2020 and moved to Winifred where she ranches and farms, makes stoles with her sister through their Story Stoles business, and heads up the Racial Justice task force for the Montana Synod.

Rev. Mary Dickman Parris ('06) is married to Rev. Joshua Parris and works as pastor at Ray and Epping Lutheran Churches in Ray, North Dakota.

Rev. Molly Sasser-Goehner and Allen Sasser-Goehner ('99) both work at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Missoula and raise their boys Luke and Leo.

Rev. Dwight Welch ('95) is married to Jim Reindollar and serves as campus pastor at United Campus Ministry at MSU-Billings.

Rev. Lindsay Ross-Hunt ('07) is married to Greg Brekke and serves as priest at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Bellingham, Washington.

Rev. Daniel Viehland ('11) is married to Pastor Anna and they are both pastors in Townsend (Methodist and Lutheran churches).

Colter Murphy ('17) is engaged to Stephanie and is moving to Missoula to work as the Youth and Family director at St. Paul Lutheran Church.



Dillon and Elaine Warn ('11), who are teachers in Bozeman, adopted a baby boy, Cassian, in October, 2020!

Dr. Miriam Ruth Brown ('13) graduated from Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine! She will do her residency in pathology at Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tennessee.



Maia Snelson Allinder ('13) and spouse Dan are both teachers in Sante Fe, New Mexico and raise their toddler son David.

Micah Drew ('18) got his master's degree in biomechanics and kinesiology from Boise State and then promptly took a job as a reporter for the Flathead Beacon. Somewhere along the way he also lost his razor.



Eamon Ormseth ('15) received a full scholarship for the M.A. in International Peacebuilding at Hartford Seminary! He will start the one-year program in Connecticut in August.

Dan Sager ('13) and Iroh (Beals) Sager ('15) were married this spring with **Erin Hastey ('14)** presiding! Iroh also earned master's degrees in both anthropology and library & information science.



Emmaus Campus Ministry



Emmaus resident community: Our 15 residents living in two adjacent houses and the Welsey House commit to leadership roles in the community, simple living practices, and hospitality. They encounter many conversations, questions, bonding experiences, and discernment opportunities just by being in the space every day. They also generate regular group activities that include other campus ministry students and friends, like dinners, poetry nights, cookie baking, movie nights, game nights, wilderness outings, and art walk tours.

Emmaus student group: Wednesday night meetings are a chance for community, worship/grounding, connection and discussion. We place an emphasis on stories, art, music, contemplation, prayer, and open sharing. To cope with COVID changes we held meetings outside whenever possible and transitioned to online over the winter.



Diverse U: Every fall UM hosts “Diverse U,” a “forum for honest dialogue in order to explore the complexities of human experience, promote understanding, and create community through the practice of civil discourse.” Emmaus has presented a session for the past several years. This year Emmaus student Shalom organized a presentation called “God, Humans, and the Natural World: From Domination to Kinship.”

Outreach Worship: We love connecting to the wider church community through outreach worship, visiting congregations to lead worship, share a message, and also lead an adult/youth education time to talk about young adults, Christianity and church. Last January and February we visited three churches in person. We also put together an online service for Christ the King Sunday in November that was shared by twelve local, state, and regional churches.

Seminary Interns: the addition of Intern Pastor Kaylie and seminary intern Rebekah strengthened student programming. They helped plan and lead meetings and it was great to have them bringing fresh new ideas and providing more diverse leadership. It also helps to have other pastoral staff that students can connect and build relationships with. Kaylie and Rebekah have additionally provided leadership for the Outreach Worship team and were instrumental in putting together our online worship service. We are excited that Rebekah will do her intern pastor year with us this coming year, along with an intern pastor from Wartburg. We are partnering with Atonement, Immanuel and Valley of Christ to offer these internships.



Program Highlights

Trips and Retreats: We had 15 students signed up for our service/learning spring break trip to Vancouver, British Columbia, but had to cancel. Prior to that, we hosted our annual winter retreat where we enjoyed food, fun, and fellowship. In July, Pastor John and nine summer residents went to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp for a time of recreating, connecting and talking with summer staff about racial tensions, decolonizing church, and the Black Lives Matter movement. It was a great time to both relax and engage on important questions. In the fall we had our annual rafting and camping retreat.



Pastor connections on campus and in the community:

Last fall Pastor John and intern Rai taught a MOLLI course called Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization. John preached several times at our local ELCA churches and worked closely with community organizations such as Common Good, the Missoula Interfaith Collaborative, Empower Montana, and the YWCA.



Faith and Climate Action Montana: The mission of FCAM is address the current and impending global climate crisis in our local region. To this end we invite faith, campus, and public communities into deeper consciousness, conversations, and actions regarding the broken and strained relationships between humans and the creation we live in. In addition we work to create a community that offers mutual support, grounding, and ritual in relation to our climate crisis. Lastly, we work to provide a consistent public voice from varied faith perspectives regarding these relationships and the urgency of the crisis. We are currently rebuilding our website and Facebook presence.

faithandclimateactionmontana.weebly.com



Anti-Racism and LGBTQIA+ Advocacy: We helped plan the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day community celebration with Empower Montana, the YWCA and campus representative. It drew a large group of students, UM faculty and staff, church folks, and community people, with a total of around 600 people over two days. Emmaus is also a partner in a project called Open and Affirming Missoula that focuses on both racial justice and LGBTQIA+ advocacy and allyship. In February, we held a book study open to the community on *One Coin Found: How God's Love Stretches to the Margins*. We also conducted a workshop called Spirit of the Rockies that examined the ways people have understood their relationships with the land, animals, other people and the divine from a wide array of cultural and historical perspectives.

Over the summer, John helped plan a workshop for all of our organizing partners in Missoula called Decentering Whiteness. We had about 65 people, including four Emmaus students and four board members. Native American and Environmental Studies student Rai Combs worked with John and other community leaders to develop a workshop called Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization. John and Rai co-taught the program in a course for the over-50 community at the University.

Thanks for your service to Emmaus, Kaylie! We'll miss you!

Grace and peace to you all! While a seminary intern at Emmaus, I have helped with our weekly programming and leading conversations. It has been an internship that addressed important theological issues, questioned traditional belief systems, and explored what it means to be a Christian today. My time at Emmaus has helped shaped me into a better pastoral figure and teacher; it has also help me learn daily life skills (like plumbing, sprinkler systems, woodcutting, small house renovation projects, etc.) My time at Emmaus has provided me with a safe community that is willing to question, explore, and play with our idea of faith.



Emmaus, to me, is a space where exploration and play intersect to address questions of faith (and its practicality in today's world). It is a space that will challenge people to dive deeper into our world's events (like climate change, racism, homophobia, etc.) Emmaus is exploring a more profound sense of faith and community through conversation and through float trips, house projects, ski trips, and lots of food and fellowship.

At the beginning of August, I will part ways with Montana and move back to Wichita. From there I will await my final interview with my Bishop's office and am hopeful to get approved. Then I will wait for a first call (hopefully) in the Central States Synod!

Thank you to the Emmaus students for our walking together this past year, for all you have taught me, and for the love/support!

With peace, Kaylie Ines

Welcome Caleb Koebble, Faith and Climate Action intern!

Caleb is an M.A. student in Environmental Philosophy. He is from Valdosta, Georgia, where he received his B.A. in Philosophy and Religious Studies from Valdosta State University.



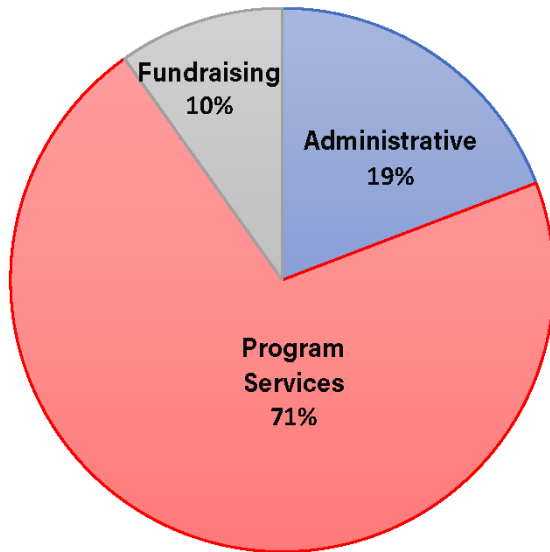
Growing up in south Georgia, Caleb attended church regularly, where his interest in the intersection of his faith and the natural environment emerged. Caleb's main research interests include environmental philosophy and religious environmental perspectives and ethics. Caleb will be working on our website and Facebook pages as well as helping to prepare for summer and fall events.

A HUGE thank you to all our 2020 donors!

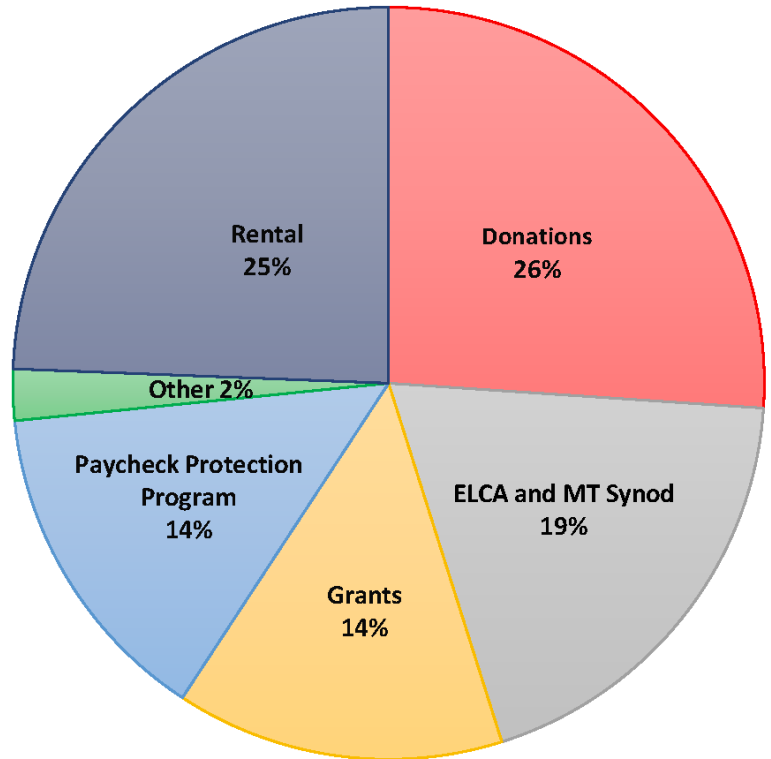
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2020 Financial Highlights

Expenditures



Sources of Revenue



2020 Statement of Operations

Revenues

Donations (Individuals)	34,873
Donations (Congregations)	14,042
ELCA and MT Synod	35,812
Lilly Grants	22,500
Other Grants	4,000
Paycheck Protection Program	26,593
Rent	45,796
Other Income	4,134

Total Revenues 187,750

Expenses

Buildings	12,779
Direct Program	6,326
Operational	7,268
Salaries, Benefits, Payroll Taxes	140,733

Total Expenses 167,106

Financial Position

Assets

	Dec 31, 2021	Dec 31, 2016
Current Assets	166,921	179,616
Fixed Assets (Buildings)	865,421	864,386

Total Assets 1,032,342 1,044,001

Liabilities and Net Assets

Total Liabilities	41,252	129,034
Total Net Assets	991,090	914,967

Total Liabilities and Net Assets 1,032,342 1,044,001

Thanks to these generous grantors!

Montana Synod
Lilly Endowment Inc.
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Thank you to our committed church partners!

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Christ the King Lutheran (Bozeman)	Our Savior's Lutheran (Columbia Falls)
Emmanuel Lutheran (Shepherd))	Our Savior's Lutheran (Laurel)
Ebenezer Lutheran (Culbertson)	Our Saviour's Lutheran (Box Elder)
Faith Lutheran (Hamilton)	Pella Evangelical Lutheran (Sidney)
First English Evangelical Lutheran (Great Falls))	Plentywood Lutheran
Holy Spirit Episcopal (Missoula)	Redeemer Lutheran (Great Falls))
Immanuel Lutheran (Missoula)	St. John's (Helena)
New Hope Lutheran Ministry (Great Falls)	St. Luke's Lutheran (Shelby)
Northridge Lutheran (Kalispell)	St. Paul Lutheran (Missoula)
	Valley of Christ Lutheran (Frenchtown)
	Zion Lutheran (Lewistown)

x

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If you have an address change or wish to stop receiving newsletters or receive e-news instead, please contact us at ecmumt@gmail.com or (406) 549-7821 to update your information.
Thanks for helping minimize this expense!

Reflection

(By senior Brooke Pelfey): It was three years before I discovered Emmaus. I began to receive invitations to ski trips, community dinners and bonfires from friends who lived in the Emmaus house. I was apprehensive at first, but my worries were eased on the first visit. It was a simple dinner, followed by conversation led by Pastor John Lund. It is hard to describe why being able to participate in that simple gathering gave me such a powerful sense of belonging to a community, but that feeling was truly overwhelming and brought with it an amazing sense of peace. From then on, any invitation I received to an Emmaus event was gladly received and I made every effort to attend.



One striking thing about Emmaus is the broad acceptance of marginalized people, particularly members of LGBTQ, international, and POC communities. Even more than acceptance, many conversations revolved around how we as individuals could actively show love and acceptance to ostracized persons. As someone who had begun to think of religion as almost criminal in its selectivity, this was extremely refreshing and helped to restore some of my own faith in religious-based communities. I am so grateful to those wonderful friends who brought me into the community. I am also thankful to Emmaus for welcoming me with the widest open arms regardless of my personal convictions about religion. Emmaus was a great place to make memories, and has fostered lifelong connections with some truly incredible people.