

Living Faith Through Community, Dialogue & Service

December 2015 www.ecmum.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Winter Book Study

Book discussion group will meet January 6th and 13th at 7pm at Emmaus. All ages and life walks are welcome. Contact John for more information.

Faith and Climate Action Congregational Leader's Summit

Tuesday January 26, 6:30pm at Atonement Lutheran Church.

Snow Joke Winter Retreat

February 26-28 at Seeley Lake, MT. The retreat will include games, discussion, skiing, great food and fun. Students and young adults are welcome.

Spring Break in San Francisco

April 1-10 Serving neighbors and exploring diversity, culture, homelessness, racism, GLBTQ issues, alternative worship, and God: All students and young adults are welcome to join us

Lily Grant Award for Emmaus!!

by John Lund

Theological Exploration of Vocation grant for \$100,000. This grant will be used over the next 5 years to give students opportunities to explore and grow in their own skills, passions, faith, vocation, and leadership in the world around them. The heart of this work will be through a course seminar called Leadership, Faith and Social Action. This will be a 300 level, 3 credit service-learning course in which each student will have an internship, job, or volunteer social service or advocacy position that will run concurrent with classroom learning, reflection, and evaluation. This course will include practices and perspectives from a variety of faith traditions, with an emphasis on the North American Christian context. It will be open to students of any or no faith background. Course content will focus on theological perspectives and faith-based traditions regarding social action and justice work, leadership development, and vocational discernment. Class time will also include exploring models of spiritual practice, peer listening, and personal reflection and discovery.

The service component is flexible to the student's interest with a minimum of 5 hours per week required. Practicums or internships that are run through UM departments may qualify. Emmaus Campus Ministry will offer a number of paid positions in the community as well. These will include coordinator positions in the following areas:

Dinners and Hospitality
Resident life
Friends in Need
Outreach worship
Campus Outreach
Area Youth Events
Retreat and Spring Break Learning/service trip
Interfaith Events
Faith and Climate Action

In addition we anticipate opportunities in the following areas:

Partner Church internships (supervised by partner church staff)

Missoula Interfaith Collaborative

Community Agencies



ecmum.org

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Jan Turbak, St. Paul Lutheran Roger Parsons, St. Paul Lutheran Dan Sager, Emmaus Alumnus

These wonderful volunteers are vital to Emmaus Campus Ministry and we are grateful for their involvement.

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.



Winter & Spring Programs

Winter Break Book Study Group for all ages: Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church by Rachel Held Evans. Book discussion group will meet January 6th and 13th at 7pm at Emmaus. We will buy bulk copies of the book. Please contact Pastor John if you want one (our compliment).

Leadership, Faith, and Social Action Sunday nights from 6-8pm with dinner. This will be a "first-time" run of our fall course to try new ideas and get the kinks out. Starts on Jan. 31st.

Faith and Climate Action Congregational Leader's Summit Tuesday, January 26th: Atonement Lutheran Church, 6:30pm: Inviting clergy and lay leaders to consider ways we can work together, support each other and develop strategies to care for our creation.

Loving our Neighbors: Understanding Islam and Muslim culture in America and the world. This is a 5 week seminar for all students. Wednesday nights from 6-7:30pm. (includes soup and bread supper). Feb. 17 thru Mar. 16

Snow Joke Winter Retreat February 26-28: Seeley Lake, MT. Some of us will run the Snow Joke half marathon around Seeley Lake, while others will go cross country skiing. Also includes sledding, games, discussions, great food and fun. Cost is \$20/person. (for students and young adults)

Spring Break Trip to San Francisco April 1-10: Serving neighbors and exploring diversity, culture, homelessness, racism, GLBTQ issues, alternative worship, and God: All students and young adults are welcome to join us. Cost is \$200 plus some meals and expenses.

Stay Tuned for...

All Area Youth Event We had such a great time in November that we are ramping up for another event this spring. Stay Tuned!!

Outreach Worship Team After taking some time off, we now have a wonderful group of students ready to get out to congregations this winter and spring to lead worship and share the Word. Coming soon!

How you can support Emmaus:

- Donations are always needed and welcomed! In 2016 our ELCA Montana Synod grant will be reduced by \$10,000 due to budget constraints. We will be making that up through donations and grants, operating much like other non-profits in our world. Your gift always goes to an engaged ministry!
- Sponsor a student: you might prefer to sponsor a Spring Break trip student, or perhaps an intern working on one of our projects. Contact Pastor John for details,
- Thrivent Action Team Grants: Thrivent Financial members can now apply for two Action Team project grants of \$250 each year. We have many events that are eligible and will definitely find the right project for you!!
- Thrivent Choice Dollars: We have a growing number of Thrivent members who direct their choice dollars to Emmaus. This is a great way to support us!
- Come and cook: We are looking for volunteer cooks on Wednesday nights to feed our group. You are welcome to drop off, or join our group for the evening.

LIVING FAITH FALL 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

FRIENDS

We thank Keenan Weatherford for his exceptional and dedicated work these past 18 months. Keenan is changing course and we wish him all the best.

We are bringing on Anne Jehle as we move into 2016 with Friends in Need. Anne is a freshman

at UM from West Yellowstone, MT and has a great passion for helping others. If you know someone in need or want more information about this outreach contact the Emmaus Campus Ministry office at (406-549-7821).



Oktoberfest 2015 was a great success. Thanks to your support and generosity we auctioned off 79 items, fed 200 people and raised over \$16,000!!





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Return Service Requested

NOTE: Forwarding addresses and returned newsletters cost the ministry \$0.49 each.

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.

Thank you for your help in minimizing this expense!

In Search of Church

by John Lund

Three times this fall I have had young adults come to me looking for a church to attend. In each case I have asked them what they are looking for and in all three cases I was given basically the same answer, which is consistent with what I have been hearing over many years. Here are the three basic criteria for what its worth:

1. A truly welcoming church: Is there a climate, culture, and desire for diversity? Do they go out of their way to welcome and include everyone (through signage, website, Facebook, welcome statement, bulletins, verbally, etc.) and do they really mean it? Do they say they welcome everyone regardless of gender, race, social class, GLBTQ



and faith perspective, or perhaps name diverse categories of who they do welcome? (Saying or signing "all are welcome" is not enough because they have been duped before.) Is there diversity in their leadership and on their board? How about in the pews?

- 2. Learning and growth: Is this a place that will challenge me to think, ask questions and grow in my faith? Is there engaged study of theology, current events, hard topics, relationships and so on? Is there a regular format to ask questions and share and go deeper in faith?
- 3. Engaged in society and the world: What is this church doing in the community? Will they ask me to be part of something outside of the church that is bigger than myself and is making a difference? Can they help me be part of bringing good into the world and being part of something exciting and meaningful that is connecting to others? How are they caring for creation and the least among us?



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