

EMMAUS

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Living Faith Through Community, Dialogue & Service

march 2018

www.ecmum.org

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Why Did Jesus Die?

by Pastor John Lund

As we move into Holy Week this year, I invite us all to think about how we interpret and make sense of the primary story of our faith. It matters because it has become a critical sticking point for many of our youth and young adults who are wondering if they still identify as being Christian and if they still belong in this entity called church. The crux of this sticking point is that in our country Christianity most often gets presented as a simplified formula focused on blood sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and securing eternal life. In this formulaic interpretation, sometimes called substitutionary atonement, Jesus' death is understood as a necessary mechanism for God to forgive our sins and grant us eternal life. As the story goes, because of Adam and Eve, we all have original sin and have broken away from God and we cannot get back into God's grace by our own doing and are thus condemned to eternal punishment. Jesus steps in and takes our punishment for us with his death so that we are freed to eternal life with God.

The primary problem with this theory is that it presupposes God as a divine judge who demands a blood sacrifice as a punishment or appeasement for our sins. There is no actual grace in this model because it assumes that divine forgiveness has to be paid for by someone. This runs contrary to what Jesus himself taught, what most of our mainline clergy teach and preach, and what most youth and young adults actually believe about God. I think we do a good job of telling our children that God is full of grace and they are loved no matter what. Somewhere along the way they also hear that this grace is contingent on them being born again (evangelicals) or baptized (mainline) and that there are a

whole lot of others (like their friends) who are left out of the Grace loop because they are not Christian. For many this creates an incoherence and a crisis of faith. They can't buy into a faith that condemns half of the world's population to hell while trying to prop up proclamations of an all-loving God.

In the ELCA I don't believe we have many clergy who are preaching that kind of judgement, even of non-Christians. Yet, somehow this story of divine punishment of the masses is still the widespread message that comes across. Sometimes I hear references to it in worship such as "lamb of God you take away the sin of the world", "Jesus died for your sins", and even our standard communion phrase "Jesus' blood shed for you". We can argue these statements mean different things to us, which they might. But they sound like a substitutionary atonement framework, and it is becoming more and more problematic for people in our pews (or not).

The good news is that we have much better story to tell about God's deep love for all people and life. Jesus did put his life on the line because he was teaching and living out this love by loving the wrong people. He did sacrifice his life as he lived for the sake of the sinners and untouchables and unlovable, according to the powers of his time. He died because he was teaching us his vision of God's beloved community, that all people might know they are valued and loved no matter what. This, I believe is still a relevant story that even our young people are eager to hear. It has hope and possibility and the promise that we are not alone, even in our suffering. This Holy Week and Easter season may we all reclaim our story and live into the good news of God's love for all the world.

EMMAUS CAMPUS MINISTRY

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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.

Coming Up...

Emmaus Annual Year End Banquet

Friends of Emmaus, you are invited to our year-end banquet on Wednesday, May 2nd at 6pm at UCC church! Join us for a wonderful meal and a chance to meet students, hear stories and celebrate graduations and other life events.

Lochsa Whitewater River Trip

3rd or 4th week of May. Exact date TBA. Welcoming all ages of people who want to be part of a one day Lochsa whitewater rafting trip. We will have 2-4 boats and some kayakers. Bring your own boat if you are capable or come along and paddle. Please let Pastor John know if you are interested.



Thank You!

a special thank you to bethany youngblood for her many years of dedicated and excellent work with us as our bookkeeper! bethany has picked up extra hours at st. paul lutheran and had to cut back from emmaus.



Many thanks to our renovation volunteer crew! We spent the last 6 weeks in the basement apartment of the Ark renovating it from one big bedroom (shared by two people) to two separate bedrooms. The project turned out great and we have two new students living there already! Thanks to Don Church, Jack Freer, Jim Bendickson, Mick Hanson, John Yobst, Phil Guay, Martha Des Georges, Anna Iler, Sean McQuillan, and Caity Zimmerman for all of your volunteer hours!

The Time is Now: Interfaith Action for Climate Justice

April 27-28, 2018

Featuring Frederick Krueger, director of the National Religious Coalition on Creation Care, and communications experts from Resource Media, this conference will inspire and equip people of faith to reclaim our spiritual connection to the earth and raise our collective voice for climate justice in Montana and beyond. Come when you can!

Friday, 4/27

Film Showing at the Roxy Theater, 7pm: "The Wisdom to Survive", followed by panel discussion. Free!

Saturday, 4/28

Conference: All events at UCC of Missoula, 405 University Ave (cost is sliding scale)

- **10am - 12pm** Keynote address and workshop: "Sacred Voices for the Earth: Theology and Ethics of Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship" with Frederick Krueger, eco-theologian
- **12pm** Lunch
- **1 - 4pm** Workshop: "Skill-Building for Faith-Based Advocacy in the Public Sphere" with Resource Media
- **4:15pm** Putting it all Together: Building an Interfaith Movement for Climate Justice in Montana
- **5:30pm** Closing meal and interfaith celebration

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Online pre-registration encouraged! Sign up today: <http://bit.ly/TheTimeisNowConference>

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/faithandclimateactionmt/>

Or email: faithandclimateactionmt@gmail.com

This conference is organized by Faith and Climate Action Montana, an interfaith coalition based in Missoula that engages people of faith around climate and environmental stewardship through education, spiritual reflection, and collective action.

Snapshots!



**our outreach worship team
together in bonner**



**students, residents, and
john at our advent party**



Mother, Maiden, Crone:

Establishing Gender-Diverse Presence in the Kingdom of God

By Abby Lynes

In early March, a Sunday night dinner at Emmaus ended with an unconventional prayer. Using entirely feminine language to describe the Holy Spirit, it addressed God as Goddess, repeating the words "Mother, Maiden, Crone" throughout. The prayer encouraged us to do things not included the Lord's Prayer: It gave us permission to let go, accept our limits, and let God unfold from the depths within us.

The prayer, and the discussion preceding it, touched me in a way I haven't felt in a long time. Growing up in a more traditional faith setting, I didn't usually get to experience a distinctly feminine sense of divine energy in a sacred space. Even in an all-female group, prayer was often mired in guilt and restrictiveness stemming from sexism. It was rare that I felt I could enumerate the true desires of my heart to God, aloud or to myself.

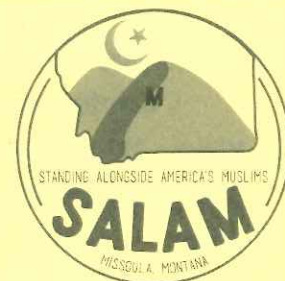
After that dinner with Pastors Amy Carter and Laurie Folkwein from the UCC Church, I felt refreshed. We discussed the history of feminist theology movements, the importance of gender diversity and intersectionality in depictions of God, and Her Church, an ELCA church in San Francisco that uses entirely feminine language to refer to God, or Goddess. A few of us had the privilege of visiting Her Church over an Emmaus Spring Break Trip a few years ago, and it's where the closing prayer came from.

In opening up a wider array of interpretations of God in art, literature, etc., no one wishes to

invalidate the male experience. But up until fairly recently, it has been the only experience found in most depictions of God, with little room for diversity. The spark of the divine exists within every human, and it's important to acknowledge the millions of beautiful ways in which it manifests itself. Only when we open ourselves up to the limitlessness of ways we can encounter God will we begin to have a deeper, richer relationship with Her.

CELEBRATE ISLAM WEEK

Please join **SALAM Missoula** for a week of engaging educational events about the beautiful faith of Islam, practiced by **millions of Americans** and **1.6 billion people** around the world.



MONDAY 4/9

5:30-7:30 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DOORS 5, DINNER 5:30

\$15. PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE

OPENING BANQUET

Kick off Celebrate Islam Week by enjoying dishes cooked by local refugee families, a brief program, building community, and supporting our Muslim community members. Please purchase tickets in advance at 2018ciw.eventbrite.com; seating is limited. Menu will include halal and non-halal options. Books authored by the week's special guest, Jamal Rahman, will be for sale and the author will be present for book-signing.

TUESDAY 4/10

12 NOON-1:30-3:30 PM

UM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

FIRESIDE ROOM

WORKSHOP: PRACTICAL SPIRITUALITY IN ISLAM

Enjoy a light lunch and meet-and-greet with special guest Jamal Rahman (12 noon) and if you can, stay for the workshop afterwards (1:30-3:30 pm). This workshop will be engaging, participatory and experiential. Please RSVP to salammissoula@gmail.com.

ISLAM AND GETTING TO THE HEART OF INTERFAITH

Join us on the University of Montana campus as Jamal presents his insights on Islam, spirituality and the important role of Islam in interfaith.

Jamal Rahman is a popular speaker on Islam, Sufi spirituality, and interfaith relations. Along with his Interfaith Amigos, he has been featured in the New York Times, CBS News, BBC, and various NPR programs. Jamal is co-founder and Muslim Sufi minister at Interfaith Community Sanctuary and adjunct faculty at Seattle University. He is a former co-host of Interfaith Talk Radio and travels nationally and internationally, presenting at retreats and workshops.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

7-8:30 PM

UM ECK AUDITORIUM

LA BUILDING

LOWER LEVEL RM. II

WEDNESDAY 4/11

7-9 PM

UM ECK AUDITORIUM

LA BUILDING

LOWER LEVEL RM. II

"KORAN BY HEART" FILM SCREENING

Directed by Greg Barker (HBO's "Sergio"), the inspiring documentary KORAN BY HEART captures the drama of the famous Quran reciting contest that takes place in Cairo, Egypt annually during Ramadan. This coming of age story follows three extraordinary children as they go head-to-head with other children, some nearly twice their age, who inhabit an environment caught between fundamentalist and moderate visions of Islam. A brief, moderated discussion will follow the film.

SATURDAY 4/13

7PM-8:15 PM

HAR SHALOM CONGREGATION

DANCE OF UNIVERSAL PEACE & DHIKR

Dances of Universal Peace and Dhikr with Sheikh Peter Munir Reynolds (7 PM) - Move to live music in harmony using short phrases from the world's sacred traditions. No musical or dance experience is required; everyone is welcome partner or not. Program will conclude with a Dhikr with Adam Stadheim (8:15 PM).



Shalom



QUESTIONS?
SEND AN EMAIL TO:
SALAMMISSOULA@GMAIL.COM

Welcome Our New Additions to the Emmaus Community!



Iman Suleiman from Chicago has joined Emmaus as a social work practicum student for the spring and fall semesters. Iman will be helping to organize conversations around the issue of gun violence and sensible regulation. She will be working with students on campus and under the direction of our local Mom's Demand Action team.

"My name is Iman. I'm from Chicago. I'm in my last semester of the BSW program at the University. In my free time I like to spend time with friends and family and I enjoy watching action sports, if not participating in them"

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Jennifer Kieffer, our new Faith and Climate Action intern, who is a freshman from Marin County, California. Jennifer is helping us build our caring for creation book library and is helping to plan our April Faith and Climate Action conference.

From Jennifer: "I am excited to be working with Faith and Climate Action because the time has come for people of faith to be vocal about the climate crisis taking place and I believe organizations like Faith and Climate Action Montana are getting the conversation started."

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Welcome to **Tara Sweet** who recently moved to Missoula with her family from Butte! Tara will be doing our financial bookkeeping and general administrative tasks at Emmaus.

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Caitlin Zimmerman is also a new resident in the Ark and is currently studying law. Caity is from a ranch family in Livingston and a lifelong Lutheran. She graduated from PLU and then spent a year in South Africa with the ELCA Young Adults In Global Mission program in 2013-14. After that she also spent a year in the Lutheran Volunteer Corp, working in the ELCA churchwide offices in Chicago and doing research for the proposed social statement on women and justice.

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Anna Iler is a new resident in the Ark. Anna is from a farming family in Cody, WY and is currently a law student.

More Snapshots



a full house at our mlk day celebration at st paul lutheran



ready to ski at our winter retreat!

EMMAUS

CAMPUS MINISTRY

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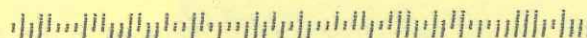
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Holy Spirit Episcopal
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NOTE: Forwarding addresses and returned newsletters cost the ministry \$0.49 each.

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!



"Like" us on Facebook!
Emmaus Campus Ministry at the University of Montana.

How You Can Support Emmaus

- *Donations are always needed and welcomed! 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.*