EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH //VOLUME 55// OCTOBER 2025 // NO. 10

THE VISITOR

701 S. First Street - Milbank, SD 57252 // www.elcmilbank.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Wednesday 2:00 p.m.

Holy Communion 1st, 3rd, 5th weeks and every Wednesday

YouTube Live Streamed on Sunday or Watch Replay

https://www.youtube.com/@emanuel lutheranchurchelcmi4536



Contact Information

Pastor Chris Davis Cell: (218) 255-0441

Office Brandy Blauert Phone: (605) 432-9555 Cell: (605) 467-1542

Email: elc@itcmilbank.com

Find us on Facebook @Emanuel Milbank

Simon, the Real Jesus, and the Need for an Ongoing Reformation

As I mentioned last month, the Elders and I spent our retreat at the Abbey of the Hills on September 19-20, looking at how people often invent false Christ's to follow rather than trusting in the REAL Jesus. One of the false Christ's in that book was a man named Simon. Simon was working on helping flood victims in Fargo with Pastor Matthew Richard (the author of the book, *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?*) in the early 2000's, when he said, "Luther, Calvin and all those reformers in the sixteenth century had it all wrong. The Jesus they looked to wouldn't have been able to deal with all the problems in our modern world." According to Simon the Jesus of the Reformation was not equipped to deal with the issues facing people today like social injustice, women's rights, LGBTQ issues, racism, climate change, and inequality. For Simon, the real problem isn't sin, it is a lack of equity and oppression. Christians today (from Simon's perspective) need to focus on the oppressors in the world and how they are oppressing others. For Simon, the problem is certain people, not sin. If only oppressors could be dealt with then those who are oppressed will have salvation.

Simon's false Jesus (as well as the other 11 in the book) reminds us of the need for a continuing Reformation. Simon – like others with false Christ's – are confusing the Great Commission with the Great Commandment. As Paul says so clearly in Ephesians 6:12, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." That's why Jesus says, "Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:18-20). You see, our enemy isn't other people, it is sin. Simon and so many others forget this. Everyone needs the REAL Jesus (. All people need the forgiveness Jesus won on the cross when He died for the life of the world). Certainly, we are to love one another and help people in the grips of oppression. That's the Great Commandment, to love others as you love yourself (Matthew 22:39). First and foremost, however, we love others by pointing them to Jesus....the REAL Jesus! We don't

love people who are oppressing others by acting as if they don't need Jesus just as badly as the people being hurt by them. We also don't love others by pretending sin isn't really sin. As we are told in 1 Timothy 2:4, God our Savior "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." Simon needs to gently be shown how sin is the real oppressor of us all, and how the Jesus of the Reformation, the One and Only REAL Jesus is the One everybody needs. He is the answer to everything that is hurting us all.

As Simon's and all the false Christ's in *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up*? (false Christ's that are so prevalent in our world today) remind us, the Reformation of Christ's Church is ongoing. In each generation, the devil – who masquerades as an angel of light (Cor. 11:14) – puts on a different costume to ask human beings of that time the ubiquitous question, "Did God really say?" (Genesis 3:1). In Luther's day the faith and biblical knowledge of the dear people was terribly deficient. In many ways it is not any better today. That's why people are always inventing false Jesus'. During this Reformation season may we not only thank our Savior – the REAL Jesus – for what He accomplished through Martin Luther and others, but let's re-commit ourselves and our churches to an ongoing Reformation....one that helps un-mask the false Christ's of our day, encourages others to spend time in God's Word, and points people to the REAL Jesus. A blessed Reformation to everyone!

In Christ, Pastor Davis

Official Acts - Funeral: Eugene Trapp





Photos from Elders Retreat 2025

Mission of the Month: Together In Mission

Together In Mission invites congregations, groups and organizations to partner with LCMS missionaries serving around the world. By partnering with missionaries in their global ministry each LCMS member has the opportunity to journey with them and share God's Word with all the nations. https://www.lcms.org/togetherinmission

Please use the "Special Mission Offering" envelope or make mention on your form of payment that you wish to contribute to this mission. Thank you for your support.

Scripture Readings

Date	Festival	1st Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
October 5	Seventeenth S. after Pentecost	Hab. 1:1–4; 2:1–4	Psalm 62	2 Tim. 1:1–14	Luke 17:1–10
October 12	Eighteenth S. after Pentecost	Ruth 1:1–19	Psalm 111	2 Tim. 2:1–13	Luke 17:11–19
October 19	Nineteenth S. after Pentecost	Gen. 32:22–30	Psalm 121	2 Tim. 3:14–4:5	Luke 18:1–8
October 26	Reformation Day (Oct. 31)	Rev. 14:6-7	Psalm 46	Rom. 3:19–28	Matt. 11:12–19

Helping during Worship Service

	Sound Radio Broadcast	Acolytes
October 5	Harlan Monson	Braden Mueller, Isaac Zubke
October 12	Dave Schamber	Bennett Schwandt, Andrew Karges
October 19	Larry Underwood	Finley Hunt, Sophia Lee
October 26	Tracy Pinkert	Brytten Schmieg, Landon Athey

Library

In the church library we have lots of cards and napkins available for purchase, especially napkins for Thanksgiving! The library is located down the hall across from the mailboxes. The room is on the right side of the hallway.

The Ladies of Emanuel-LWML will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 14, at 1PM in the social hall. the topic is on page 19 of the Fall Quarterly, "Let Us Be Your Hands and Feet". Phyllis Schultz and Joyce Johnson will serve lunch. ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME!!



We continue to cut out crosses for the missionary in Hong Kong.

Sunday Oct. 5, is LWML Sunday. Joan Smith and Joyce Johnson will greet. We will have Mite boxes available for those interested. Coffee will be served by JoEllen Heffron, Joyce Johnson, and Karin Mueller.

On Saturday, Oct.11, LOE will host the Fall Rally for the Milbank Zone of LWML. Pastor Davis will give the topic, Generosity. Any and all are welcome!! Watch for posters and flyers!!!



Trick or Treat at the Parsonage on Halloween Night
October 31st from 5-7pm!



Pictorial Church Directory Information

It's time for a new Pictorial Directory! Our dates of photography are November 18, November 21, November 22, 2025. Just for participating you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a church directory. You will view your images right away and have the chance to purchase family portraits. You can make an appointment by using the link below or you can sign up at the church office during regular business hours (M-F 9-4) or November 2nd after the Annual Meeting.

Tuesday, November 18 Friday, November 21 Saturday, November 22

www.ucdir.com

Church Code: sd157

Church Password: photos

ONLINE SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Go to the Universal Church Directories website (www.ucdir.com)
- 2. Click on the box on the right side of the homepage entitled "photography appointment scheduling login"
- 3. Enter your church code sd157
- 4. Enter your church password photos
- 5. Click on the Enter button
- 6. Click on the desired photography date
- 7. Click on the Reserve Time button beside the desired photography appointment time
- 8. Enter the appropriate information in all required fields (indicated by the asterisk)
- 9. Click on the Schedule Appointment button at the bottom of the screen to reserve the photography appointment time in your family's name
- 10. If you have more than six family members being photographed, please reserve two appointments consecutively (such as 6:00 and 6:10)
- 11. Print the next screen to use as a reminder of your family's photography appointment

Annual Voter's Meeting November 2, 2025

10:30 am (after church) with a light meal served

Please prayerfully consider using your talents within our congregation as an officer or board member. If you are interested in joining a board, have seen a need in our church, or would like to volunteer your time in any way, we welcome you! Information about our offices and boards can be found in the "Officers and Board Member Information" handout. Copies are available on the communication shelf outside the sanctuary, online on the "News and Events" page, or from the church office.

Thanksgiving Meal November 27th from 11am-1pm

We will be looking for volunteers. Sign-up sheets will be out soon.

How can you help? Setting up beforehand, cleaning up afterward, providing groceries, monetary donations, cooking, serving, praying for all involved.

We are blessed to serve around 150 people each year.

Stewardship Section: Harmonious Stewardship

"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" (Romans 12:4-5).

One of the most forgotten concepts in stewardship is the interdependent nature that makes up the Body of Christ and the way that body supports the shared work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is experienced in the local congregation, as well as in broader mission and ministry efforts at the district and Synod levels. Yet in these words, St. Paul reminds the Romans and us that we are indeed members of one another. This is true in our worship. It is also true in our stewardship of the Gospel. Stewards of all shapes and sizes, ages and abilities, affluence and influence are all assembled around Word and Sacrament in the local congregation with no one being more important than the other. Part of this forgetting lies in what the eyes see and how our human mind operates. Our eyes and our minds are quick to come to the erroneous conclusion that the person who writes the biggest check is the more important steward. Human logic, flawed by sin as it is, could make a claim that the youngest child or the most infirm, aged member of the congregation would certainly be considered something less than important when it comes to the stewardship of the Gospel. Paul makes it clear in these words that this is not how stewardship of the Gospel is measured in the Body of Christ. Rather, it would be better to view local stewardship like the lost art of harmony in congregational singing. This has been lost not only due to the performative nature of the lead singers of the local praise team, but also because modern hymnals are written to almost force the novice hymn-singer into unison voice. Creative harmonization by talented organists is beautiful to listen to, but does not always support the people in the pews in singing in parts. This is a loss in demonstrating a very practical aspect of whole-body stewardship. The sound that builds when choral and congregational singers settle into their voice parts is nothing short of heavenly! Yet when altos, tenors and bass sing their individual parts without any concept of how they fit together, the music doesn't sound as powerful. The narrow range of the typical alto line almost sounds monotonous. The tenor line can get painfully high, and the baseline can get uncomfortably low. But, when interdependently entwined, along with the melody that is so often carried by the sopranos, the music becomes a tremendously powerful tool in communicating the Gospel. The same is true of individual stewards. Certainly, stewards with more financial means are in a unique place to "carry the tune" for ministry in a local congregation. But that doesn't rule out the faithful stewardship of the saint-like 94-year-old Hulda, who prayed for her young pastor in German every night while the aches and pains of arthritis and the grief of losing a daughter to cancer kept her awake. This does not rule out Jimmy, the profoundly developmentally disabled confirmand whose basic but dramatically eloquent confession of the faith left an impression on a congregation long after he went to be with Jesus. It doesn't rule out the single parent, the recovering addict, the family coming out of bankruptcy, the elderly widow and everyone in between. The Lord has entrusted all the baptized with stewardship of the one thing needful: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No one member of any congregation is more important than another when it comes to this stewardship. The biggest check isn't always the best way to communicate the Gospel. In fact, it is almost always better communicated with the widow's mite, the tenacious stewardship of the talents and so much more. In the local congregation and beyond, our corporate stewardship of the Gospel needs each other to fill out our great confession. It is not about equal amount. It is about interdependence that only the Holy Spirit can work! Each of us has a role to play, a harmony to sing. The standard for that role is faithfulness. We do not have the same function, but we

have the same Jesus! As we sing the parts entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit, the sweet music of the Gospel goes out!

-LCMS Stewardship Ministry

lcms.org

August 31 – September 28, 2025

Week of	<u>Attendance</u>	Offering
08/31/25	155	\$9,588.00
09/07/25	180	\$8,120.00
09/14/25	138	\$6,720.00
09/21/25	156	\$5,653.00
09/28/25	122	\$4,458.00



Donations supporting ONGOING relief efforts in North Carolina and Texas

- ANNUAL -

German Sausage Dinner

October 19, 2025 - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Emanuel Lutheran Church, 701 S 1st Street, Milbank, SD

- FEATURING WALDNER'S SAUSAGE -

Sauerkraut - Buttered Potatoes - Dessert

FREE WILL DONATION - Also Silent Auction - Homemade Items



It takes YEARS to recover and rebuild. Milbank Collection Center has designated the fundraiser proceeds for the Texas and North Caolina area...OGT is already there helping.

Ongoing: Kit making – we need gently used towels and gently used backpacks. Thank you for always supporting!

Sunday School: Rally Sunday

Sunday School started again in September with around 35 kids attending from PreK-High School. All are welcome to join us each Sunday from 10:15-11:15am in the church basement. If you have questions regarding Sunday School please contact the church office to learn more.





Confirmation: 5th-8th grade

Confirmation classes started up again in September with 25 kids attending and riding the bus from the school to church. Class is from 3:30-5:00.

There will be no Confirmation Class on October 8th.

October 25, 2025 @ 6 p.mm. Movie night – Required for confirmation students Movie: Luther PG-13 Run time: 2 hours

8th graders – Ark Encounter Confirmation Trip will be June 8-June 12th, 2026.

Confirmation classes will serve the Advent meal on December 17th.



Youth Group 5th – 12th grade. Devotions, Games, Food, & Fun

Watch the announcement sheet for monthly information and text messages will go out soon regarding the Annual Hayride on October 19th from 11:30 – 1:30 at Dewey and Max Athey's.



10/19/2025 – Annual Hayride and Dewey Athey Residence

11/09/2025 – Canned Food Scavenger Hunt

12/3/2025 – 4:00 p.m. Serve Advent Supper – Walking Tacos and Bars

12/6/2025 – AM Breakfast with Hometown Christmas Events



Milbank Zone Fall Rally

Emanuel Lutheran Church Milbank, SD

Saturday, October 11, 2025

Freely Received, Freely Give"

Bible Study "Generosity"

By Pastor Chris Davis

Ingathering: Items for Orphan Grain Train

Ideas: things that you or your neighbors may already have excess of:

plastic bags

pillow cases for dresses

any color t-shirts (except black) for diapers

any print of flannel for diapers

There will be a donation of money to the Orphan Grain Train for shipping expenses



The afternoon will be spent at the Orphan Grain Train helping in any way that we can



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

To God be the GLORY Great Things He Hath Pone!

Registration: 9:30 AM Opening: 9:45 AM Registration: \$10

Everyone is invited to attend

Financial Income and Expense Account Overview:

Budget amount column is expected Jan-Dec 2025, Actual YTD column is Jan-Sept 2025

INCOME A	CCOUNTS	
Account	Budget Amount Jan-Dec 2025	Actual YTD 2025 Jan-Sept
Current	\$335,360.00	\$224,661.72
Missions (SD District)	\$24,000.00	\$5,706.50
Building Fund Income	\$5,000.00	\$1,996.50
Loose Offer Current	\$21,780.00	\$14,279.26
Sun School-Current	\$400.00	\$1,124.28
Total Income Weekly Offerings	\$386,540.00	\$247,768.26

Special Missions Account	Budget Amount Jan-Dec 2025	Actual YTD 2025 Jan-Sept
Radio Fund	\$510.00	\$580.00
Together in Missions	\$1,600.00	\$230.00
Orphan Grain Train	\$300.00	\$395.00
The Banquet	\$800.00	\$853.00
Main Street Living	\$600.00	\$120.00
Mercy Meals	\$300.00	\$235.00
Food Pantry Income	\$300.00	\$0.00
Door Offering/Out of Area	\$600.00	\$0.00
Door Offering/ Local	\$1,000.00	\$919.01
Lutheran Family Services	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Miscellaneous-SpMis	\$400.00	\$480.00
Total Income Mission Offerings	\$6,900.00	\$3,732.01

EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

Account	Budget Amount Jan-Dec 2025	Actual YTD 2025 Jan-Sept
Board of Elders	\$10,285.00	\$10,686.60
Board of Stewardship	\$1,130.00	\$1,133.69
Board of Evangelism	\$1,200.00	\$345.74
Board of Youth	\$0.00	\$2,576.90
Board of Trustees	\$67,040.04	\$42,507.06
Board of Education	\$2,250.00	\$1,718.46
Board of Education Preschool	\$0.00	\$1,463.61
Salaries Benefits Emanuel Preschool	\$44,556.82	\$47,443.99
Salaries Pastor/Admin/Cust/Misc.	\$166,561.00	\$121,864.12
Benefits Pastor/Admin	\$41,064.60	\$32,171.28
Payroll Processing/Workman's Comp	\$18,072.31	\$9,897.93
Mission Giving	\$36,865.08	\$32,879.72
Misc.	\$999.96	\$2,069.32
Total Expenses	\$390,024.81	\$306,758.42

T/-001	namila nuuebusch
7 7	Joyce Kasuske
	Trent Hofhenke
16-0ct	Jesse Morton
16-Oct	Nora Bordt
15-0ct	Hallie Wittrock
15-0ct	Philip Skovbo
15-0ct	Scott Pinkert
14-0ct	Lilly Toft
13-Oct	Micah Dietmeier
13-Oct	Zachary Angerhofer
12-0ct	Jamie Henderson
9-0ct	Arelee Tesch
9-Oct	Leone Poel
9-Oct	Heather Peiker
8-Oct	Trent Zemlicka
7-0ct	John Weyh
7-0ct	Rueben Schellberg
7-0ct	Kip Koch
7-0ct	Damien Gilliland
7-0ct	Abby Gilbertson
6-Oct	Shawn Stemsrud
6-Oct	Jaime Bloom
6-Oct	Chuck Berkner
5-Oct	Rita Krause
4-0ct	Brian Greiner
3-Oct	Daniel Wagner
3-Oct	Teresa Hyatt
2-0ct	Alanna Vogel
2-0ct	Kathryn Dragt
1-0ct	
1-Oct	Ryan Meeker
1-0ct	Sharon Bogenreif
Day	Birthday Wishes - October

Kaja Skovbo	Heidi Schell	Todd Koch	Robert Heffron	Peyton Schell	Joan Smith	Michael Smeins	Linnea Schwandt	Isabel Newman	Emily Wittrock	Devon Mueller	Ramsey Wieber	Lois Koch	Steven Bogenrief	Kayla Schweer	Olivia Newman	Shelby Lee	Rhonda Smeins	Dick Schwandt	Clara Rudebusch	Kennedy Hilbrands	Jacy Dexter	Naomi Henderson	Kylynn Schwandt	Logan Dexter	Benjamin Wagner	
31-Oct	31-Oct	31-0ct	31-Oct	30-Oct	29-0ct	29-Oct	29-Oct	29-Oct	28-Oct	28-Oct	27-0ct	26-Oct	26-Oct	24-Oct	24-0ct	24-Oct	22-0ct	21-0ct	20-Oct	20-Oct	20-Oct	19-Oct	18-Oct	18-Oct	17-0ct	

Anniversary Wishes - October Tracy and Kimberly Pinkert	Day 1-Oct
Jim and Pat Berkner Ryan and Jessica Spanton	5-Oct
Lee and June Skovbo	9-0ct
Richard and Kerry Fish	11-0ct
Leslie and Regina Rethke	11-0ct
Jackson and Caitlyn Graf	12-Oct
Tom and Linda Berens	13-Oct
Jacob and Brittany Koch	14-0ct
David and Courtnie Rudebusch	14-0ct
Amber and Brandon Lee	15-0ct
Jesse and Nicole Morton	15-0ct
Daniel and Angela Bowen	20-Oct
Christina and Nick Staehling	22-Oct
Jessica Haigh and Ross Haigh	26-Oct
Wayne and Rita Grabow	27-Oct

October 2025

	REMINDER ANNUAL VI MEETING NOVEMBER AFTER CHI MEAL PRO (Free Will C	5 LW 9:00 \$ with F 10:15 School 10:30 lowed	9:00 \$ 9:00 \$ 10:15 Schoo 10:30 lowed 6:00 C	9:00 S with 1 10:15 School 10:30 Youth	26 Pasta Gues 9:00 1 10:15 Scho 10:30
Sun	REMINDER: ANNUAL VOTER MEETING NOVEMBER 2 AFTER CHURCH WITH MEAL PROVIDED (Free Will Offering)	5 LWML SUNDAY 9:00 Service of the Word with Holy Communion 10:15—11:15 Sunday School (PreK-HS) 10:30 Fellowship fol- lowed by Bible Study	9:00 Service of the Word 10:15—11:15 Sunday School (PreK-HS) 10:30 Fellowship fol- lowed by Bible Study 6:00 Couples Bible Study	OGT Sausage Dinner 9:00 Service of the Word with Holy Communion 10:15—11:15 Sunday School (PreK-HS) 10:30 Fellowship Youth Group Hay Ride 6:00 Couples Bible Study	Pastor Out of Town Cuest Pastor 9:00 Service of the Word 10:15—11:15 Sunday School (PreK-HS) 10:30 Fellowship followed by Bible Study
Mon		6 Fall Pastors Conf. 7:00 Elders Meeting	6:00 Cub Scout Mtg 6:30 Questions We HaveBible Study	20	27 Pastor Out of Town 6:00 Cub Scout Mtg
Tue		7 Fall Pastors Conf.	1:00 LOE(LWML) 5:30 Youth Board 6:00 Evangelism 6:00 Stewardship 7:00 Council Mtg	21	28
Wed 1 PreK Chapel Service	7:00 am HS Bible Study 9:00 Mercy Meal Packing OGT Bldg 2:00 Worship w/ Comm. 3:30-5:00 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir 8:00 AA Meeting	8 Fall Pastors Conf. No Worship Service No Confirmation Classes 5:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Church Choir 8:00 AA Meeting	7:00 am HS Bible Study 2:00 Worship with Holy Communion 3:30-5:00 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir 8:00 AA Meeting	22 PreK Chapel Service 7:00 am HS Bible Study 2:00 Worship with Holy Communion 3:30-5:00 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir 8:00 AA Meeting	7:00 am HS Bible Study 2:00 Worship with Holy Communion 3:30-5:00 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir 8:00 AA Meeting
Thu	9:00 Mission Sewing 11:00 Communion at St Williams Nursing Home 1:00 Bible Study	9 1:00 Bible Study	16 1:00 Bible Study	Pastor Out of Town 4:00 Christian Service Council Meeting	30 1:00 Bible Study
Fri	ι.,	10	17	Pastor Out of Town Newsletter Articles Due to office	31
Sat	9:00 Questions We HaveBible Study	9:00 Men's Group Bible Study 9:30 LWML Milbank Zone Fall Rally Fellowship Hall	18 OGT Sausage Dinner Set-up	25 Pastor Out of Town 6:00 Movie Night Fellowship Hall Required for confirmation students—Movie: Luther	November I 9:00 Questions We HaveBible Study