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UPCOMING EVENTS
AT A GLANCE

Winter Book Study

All are welcome to join in our reading of "An Alter in the World" by Barbara Brown Taylor. Discussions will be January 8, 14 and 21.

Winter Retreat

February 27-March 1 we will venture to Georgetown Lake and Discovery Ski Area for skiing, sledding, games, discussions, food and fun.

Spring Break in Portland, Oregon

Service projects, learning, exploring, diversity, culture, worship, and God: All students and young adults are welcome to join us.

Mary's Story: Advent Abundance



by Sarah Nehm, Seminary Intern

Imagine yourself as Mary. You are visited by an angel and told that you will bear the Son of God. You will give birth to the Messiah, the one who will change the world. You say, "yes" and enter into the divine plan. You may lose the respect of your family or the man you are betrothed to. One thing is certain, life as you know it has changed forever.

Throughout scripture, God chooses unlikely people to be a part of the holy narrative. Mary was young and unmarried. She was Jewish in a land under foreign leadership, and she was a woman. In her context, she is the definition of powerless. Yet, the Lord looks upon her with favor and calls her blessed.

Like Mary, we are called to be bearers of Christ. In a world crying out for justice and hungry for peace, we are called to be witnesses of God's love for all people. Saying, "yes," to God might bring us to surprising places. We might be transformed or we may even transform the world around us.

Often we tell ourselves that we are not quite ready to say, "yes," to God. I tell myself that I would be a better steward if only I made more money. A congregation might ... story continued on page 5



Emmaus students gathered at Pastor Lund's house to celebrate the end of Fall Semester with an Advent dinner and game night.

EMMAUS CAMPUS MINISTRY

ecmum.org

STAFF

Rev. John Lund
ECLA Campus Pastor
(406) 396-4974

john.lund@umontana.edu

Rebekah McDonald

Communications, Finance, Development
(406) 549-7821
ecmumt@gmail.com

Sarah Nehm

Seminary Intern to Emmaus
& Valley of Christ, Frenchtown

Keenan Weatherford

Post Young Adult In Global Mission Intern

Micah Drew

Melissa Pursell

Peer Ministers

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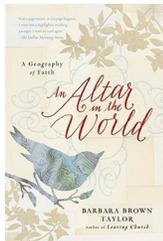
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These wonderful volunteers assist with programming, financial matters, staffing, special events, workdays and so much more.

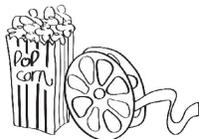
We are grateful for their involvement with Emmaus Campus Ministry.

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
An Altar in the World, by Barbara Brown Taylor, 2010. Taylor is an Episcopal priest and highly acclaimed author. We will buy bulk copies of the book. Please contact Pastor John if you want one (our compliment). Book discussion group will meet three times over lunch at Emmaus House: January 8, 14 and 21. All are welcome to join in the conversation.



Winter Break Movie Nights

Every Tuesday night, December 16-January 20, at Emmaus House, hosted by Pastor Sarah. Starts at 7pm each week. Snacks will be provided!! Possible movies include: Cinderellaman, Stranger than Fiction, Evan Almighty, 50/50, 9 to 5, Legally Blonde and Pitch Perfect.

Sunday Dinners

Our weekly Sunday dinners will resume for Spring Semester January 25.

Wednesday Worship

Wednesday worship will resume for Spring Semester January 28.

Winter Retreat: February 27 – March 1

Georgetown Lake and Discovery Ski Area. Skiing, sledding, games, discussions, great food and fun. Cost is \$20/person. (for students and young adults)



Spring Break Trip to Portland, OR: March 27-April 4

Service projects, learning, exploring, diversity, culture, worship, and God: All students and young adults are welcome to join us. Cost is \$200 plus some meals and expenses.



Connecting faith & finances for good.™ for two Action Team project grants of \$250 each year. These can range from many

different projects and events, many of which Emmaus does on a regular basis. This year we used Action Team grants to host a faith-leader luncheon with guest speaker, Gershon Baskin, and an Advent dinner celebration with students and young adults. If you are a Thrivent member and want to support an Emmaus event with an Action Team grant please let us know. We will definitely find the right project for you!!

Thrivent Action Team Grants

Thrivent Financial members can now apply



Volunteers Sam Harder and Roger Parsons work to repair a kitchen floor in Lolo this November.

Contact Keenan at
 (406) 370-3193 or
friendsinneed.ecmumt@gmail.com

Friends In Need Program Updates

by Keenan Weatherford, Post-YAGM Intern & Friends In Need Coordinator



The Friends In Need program has been rather busy in recent months. It seems as the temperatures outside began to drop, the number of friends needing a helping hand only increased. Our projects have ranged from installing siding, to various plumbing repairs, hand-rail installation, repairing holes in floors and leaky roofs, and more recently shoveling snow.

We are very grateful for our partnership with the Imagine Missoula program and the relationship we have come to form with them. Thanks Imagine Missoula! We would also like to take this time to again thank each and every one of our volunteers that have come out to help with any of our projects. You all are truly the heart of this program and we absolutely could not do it without you. Thank you!

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers, more projects and any kind of donations. Thanks again for helping to change the lives of community members here in Missoula!!

Building Improvements



Emmaus house's new porch is under construction and should be completed this spring.

This summer and fall we painted the Ark, put in 4 new 4ft x 4ft egress windows for safety and light, put in a new boiler and hot water heater in the Ark (surprise!), and started to build a new porch at Emmaus. The porch is on hold until spring weather hits. In the meantime we are renovating the Emmaus basement apartment kitchen over winter break! Thanks to Don Church, Mick Hanson, Adrian Hoye and many others who have volunteered their time on these projects! Thanks also to LCM Inc. of the ELCA church-wide organization for granting us 50% of the boiler and the porch projects!

MEET REBEKAH

We welcome Rebekah McDonald as our new office administrator! Rebekah grew up in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. She is a 2006 UM graduate and most recently spent two years with Montana State Parks AmeriCorps. She has worked at bible camps and other non-profits and is excited to be connected to students and a faith-based community. Welcome aboard Rebekah!!





Reflection on Emmaus

By Hilary Heskett



“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

These words are my favorite part of the Holding Evening Prayer liturgy. The symbolism is especially emphasized by the dark and cold winter season that now surrounds us. Each week when the Advent candles are lit, I reflect on my life. This year, Advent comes at an opportune moment, as I graduate and think about my past three years with Emmaus Campus Ministry.

Emmaus provided me an opportunity to live in community with others. I valued being a member of a faith community in which I could develop relationships and grow in my spirituality.

An important aspect of my life is providing for those who are less fortunate. Along with other Emmaus students, I had several opportunities to serve dinner to those in need, collect canned food items, and build homes with Habitat for Humanity.

As a member of the Emmaus Outreach Team, each month I led worship at churches around Montana. I enjoyed meeting dedicated church members, and observing how different congregations express their faith. These experiences filled me with joy. I felt the unity of the Lutheran church.

On Sunday evenings I gathered with fellow Emmaus students to discuss faith. Each student expressed perceptive questions and unique insights. Amidst the recent trend of decreased participation of young people in the church, Emmaus provides me with optimism. My generation consists of talented, deep thinking young adults who are interested in contributing to their communities.

This Advent season I am renewed in hope. The Advent candles offer me hope for the coming of Christ. Emmaus Campus Ministry grants me hope for my generation of young adults and the future of the church. And I face the next chapter of my life with hope and aspirations. As I go out into the world, I proceed with conviction and joy.

“Emmaus Campus Ministry grants me hope for my generation of young adults and the future of the church.”



Far Left: Students gather for Wednesday evening worship.

Left: Students playing games at Pastor Lund's house.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MID-YEAR GRADUATES!

Hilary Heskett, from Kalispell, is graduating with a degree in Health and Human Performance. Hilary has been an active member and resident of Emmaus. She has focused on interfaith events, Sunday dinners, service projects, and has been a key musician for our student worship and outreach worship team. She is applying to Physical Therapy schools for next fall.

Kathleen Heiskell, from Helena, has been a regular in our community dialog, service projects and interfaith events. She graduates with a degree in social work. Her plans include travel, working at a summer camp, and eventually graduate school.

Dan Sager, from Hamilton, is graduating with a degree in Psychology. Dan has been a stalwart in our community service projects, spring break trips and Sunday night dinners and dialog. He has accepted a job in Ohio to work in a teen center helping kids.

Halle Wilson, from Kalispell, has been a peer minister, resident and active leader in our group. She is not graduating yet, but is going back to Kalispell to student teach. Halle will graduate in May and hopes to be an elementary school teacher by next fall.

Also leaving us is **Emma Quinn** from Billings. Emma transferred to UM this fall as an MSU nursing student, but needs to go to MSU to complete her degree. Emma is a former Christikon summer staffer and fit right into our group. We still love you Emma, even as a Bobcat!

Nehm from page 1

believe they could do more service projects, but they need more people first. Students may think they can only make a difference in the world after they earn their degrees and have a career.

Our Advent story dismisses these concerns. Mary had only herself to offer. That was all she needed. Using her own body, she gave life to a savior. God had fully equipped her to answer her call. God doesn't ask that we make ourselves better before following Jesus. Being wealthy, or influential, or strong in number will not make us better disciples. We are welcomed just as we are into the Body of Christ.

Mary's life is a story of abundance. We may at times feel powerless, but God doesn't see us that way. Child, student, parent, working, or retired, God empowers each of us to be God's hands and feet in the world. Mary teaches us that we can boldly say, "Yes." We already have everything we need to live our lives in response to God's love.



Kathleen with freshly pressed cider.

the Student Perspective



by Kathleen Heiskell

As the holiday kicks into gear our lives become a little more hectic. Thanksgiving is a teaser for home cookin' and good company. It seems like we get a little break, and then are slammed with dead week, then final exams!

Year after year, finals week has no mercy for my spiritual needs. The demand of school is at its peak- creating my poor sleep schedule, a terrible diet and

a temporarily wacky pace of life. As a student I rely on the fellowship and the community of Emmaus during this season because of the purposeful conversations and big questions we ask about our Creator.

The last few years Emmaus has hand fed my soul during this time of year. As Christmas comes closer, Emmaus students and leaders come together and discuss the meaning of our holiday. We talk about baby Jesus' coming to earth and the plans he had for the world. The hope, peace, and joy followers see from his coming is enough to keep Emmaus' close community in the right spirit, despite the numerous exams and tests we must endure. Our minds are fed with exciting scripture of baby Jesus' arrival and the miracles in community that surrounded him. During the demands of school, we are all able to take a breath of fresh air and discuss, celebrate, and greet one another in joy and thankfulness that Jesus' birth gives us fellowship with each other.

Tis The Season at Emmaus, join us sometime to experience it for yourself ;)

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Fundraising Updates: Thank you for your support & participation!



Our **Oktoberfest fall fundraiser** was a huge success! We welcomed over 200 guests to our event for an evening of food, music, polka dancing, and exceptional auctions. We raised over \$14,000 for Emmaus Campus Ministry! Thank you to all our donors, volunteers, attendees, and the following generous sponsors:



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A special thank you to the Mineral-Missoula County Thrivent Chapter for a generous \$1,500 match for a portion of funds raised at Oktoberfest!



We co-hosted our third annual Campus Ministry Challenge & the **Brawl of the Wild Special Offering** with our sister Lutheran Campus Ministry program at Montana State University the Sunday before the annual Cat-Griz football game. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's events! With your help, we raised over \$1,200!



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