

Be Yourself, Love the World, Make a Difference

Winter 2022 ecmum.org

## **Greetings Emmaus Friends!**



Rev. John Lund

As we reach the end of 2022 we have a sense of deep gratitude for the people who are part of the Emmaus community. Highlights of the past year include:

• Below-market housing for 14 students and young adults in our three houses, along with housing

for our two seminarians, Rebekah and Lars.

- New solar panels on the Ark and Emmaus Houses, as well as 7 new efficient windows in the Wesley house!
- A strong, engaged, and diverse community
  of students who are at the center of or weekly
  rhythms and work together.
- A winter retreat at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, spring break trip to Holden Village, summer camping and rafting trips, and a fall Blackfoot River retreat.
- Faith and Climate Action continues its work with a renewed sense of energy and purpose and is building a speaker series called Cultivating Wisdom: a series of conversations across our landscape reimaging our relationships to the land. We just received a \$1000 grant from Humanities Montana to help bolster this project! Our model of having students interns as facilitators works well for this group.
- Confluence, our spiritual grounding group, has hit its one year mark with its current leadership and form. This continues to be a life-giving community for young and old alike.
- We continue to partner with Missoula Interfaith Collaborative and Common Good Missoula. I am now co-teaching our third round of Wrestling

- with the Truth of Colonization. This has been an important space to dig deeper into the questions of equality and justice in our community.
- We give thanks for our board who carries our mission, vision and fiscal responsibilities, and to our staff of Kristen, Rebekah, Lars, Karin, Rai, Abigail and Ryan, who all provide valuable leadership in what we do.
- Wonderful partner congregations, generous donors, and larger church bodies who support us and care that we are here!

We are looking forward to another year of service projects, retreats, living in the questions, spiritual renewal, hard conversations, a spring break trip to Vancouver, B.C. empowering leaders for the future, and building relationships with each other.

Thanks for your support, prayers, and participation in the Emmaus world!

## Be part of a green legacy!



Our solar panel installation had an upfront cost of \$7,000. We hope to raise half of this and so far generous donors have given \$1,000. Make a special donation to be part of this legacy today!



#### **STAFF**

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#### Kristen Comstock

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#### Rebekah Cochrane

Post-Seminary Intern Confluence Organizer

#### **Lars Anderson**

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#### Rai Combs

Anti-Racism Organizer

#### **Abigail Boislard**

Faith and Climate Action Coordinator

#### Karin Craven

Confluence Organizer

#### Ryan Roche

Property and Projects

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Allison De Jong, Our Savior's Amy Glaspey, St. Paul Barb Morrison, Holy Spirit Rev. Eric Huseth, Our Savior's Liz Delaney, Valley of Christ Phil Guay (President), UCC

Emmaus Campus Ministry is a ministry of ELCA Lutherans in partnership with the United Church of Christ, Episcopalian, and Methodist churches, welcoming of all perspectives. We celebrate diversity in sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

#### **Emmaus Calendar**

#### **Wednesday Dinner and Discussion**

Delicious food and conversations around life, faith, values, relationships, justice, and dreams. For students and young adults. *Every Wednesday during school, 6:15-8 Emmaus House, 532 University* 

#### **Faith and Climate Action Montana**

FCAM is a coalition that works to educate, create space for spiritual reflection, and facilitate action via advocacy and local organizing. See event flyer. Faithandclimateactionmontana.weebly.com.

#### Confluence

In December and January we will consider characters whose stories are traditionally told during the season of Advent, particularly John the Baptist and Mary, mother of Jesus. These people, along with others, prepared the way for Jesus' ministry and formed his vision of liberation for all people and all of Creation. Join Confluence for music, contemplation, conversation, and connection as we consider together these stories that help us imagine true liberation and perhaps even discover our own idea of a liberated world and how we can get there together. **Confluencemissoula.org**.

1st and 3rd Sundays, 5 pm University Congregational Church, 405 University

# Farming In a Time of Peril

A Panel Presentation



Join us as we discuss unique ways local farmers are working to produce food for the public more sustainably in this everchanging world.

Featuring speakers from Lifeline Produce, Oxbow Cattle Company, and Garden City Harvest

# December 1st 6pm in the UC Theater Free Admission!

Event supported by Humanities Montana Grant funding Contact Abigail at faithandclimateactionmt@gmail.com with any questions

## **Program Update**

We bonded, contemplated, and had a great time on our fall retreat on the Blackfoot River. Fall highlights included an evening at the studio of local artists and Emmaus supporters Adrian Hoye and John Thompson and a conversation with Rabbi Mark Kula exploring



differences in how Christians and Jews approach the Old Testament. We also talked about anti-Semitism in our country and Israel-Palestine relationships. We just finished up a food drive. We will wrap up our semester with an Advent party at John's house.

In Faith and Climate Action, we toured Dr. George Price's organic and polyculture farm in Dixon.

We also visited the Bison Range, learning from experts and local indigenous people about the importance of bison to the land in the area.

Topics in Confluence included: The Void Before Creation, Creative Agency of the Natural World, Reimagining the Garden of Eden and Humanity, Cain and Abel, and The Flood.



# Thanks for your support of Oktoberfest!

We enjoyed great company, food, and music and raised over \$23,000, our best year yet! We hope you can join us for Oktoberfest 2023.









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NOTE: Forwarding addresses and returned newsletters cost the ministry \$0.60 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.

Thanks for helping minimize this expense!

# **Support Emmaus**

#### Make a Special Donation

to support Confluence or Faith and Climate Action Montana. Write a check to Emmaus with the memo "Confluence" or "FCAM" or give online and include a note.

#### **Thrivent Action Team Grants**

If you are a Thrivent member this is a great way to support us. We always have ideas for projects and John will prepare the applications materials. Contact John.



#### **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

Another great way for Thrivent Financial members to support Emmaus. Direct your dividends to us-2022 directions need to be made no later than March 31, 2023.

#### **Legacy Giving**

If you feel specially connected to the work of Emmaus, you may want to explore making a planned gift. These gifts help ensure a vibrant ministry that will impact students and the community for generations to come. There are many forms a legacy gift can take. Please contact John or Kristen to learn more about supporting Emmaus in this unique way.