

Christ Evangelical and Reformed Church
701 N Cheyenne Avenue
Hardin, MT 59034

Contact Information

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President

Steve Uffelman - 406-679-0814

Vice President

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Other information about our church is available upon request.

Contact us to discuss God's plan and your role in the future of our part in God's universal church.

Introduction

Christ Evangelical and Reformed Church has served God for 108 years and is searching for a pastor with a love for Christ and for his church family. This pastor will help provide biblically centered worship for the existing, aging congregation as well as help with God's plan to utilize the many assets He has provided to bring others to Christ, especially youth and young families.



Who is E and R Church?

Christ Evangelical and Reformed is a church, affiliated with the Conservative Congregational Church Conference, with an active congregation of approximately 40 people. We have an aging congregation and are asking for God's guidance to prepare for the future. We have a vast knowledge of the history, a commitment to finding God's plan, and are praying for wisdom and excited for the future.

We have a church board that is elected and includes a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, elders, and deacons. We also have a guild consisting of women from the congregation that help manage the kitchen facility, organizes activities, and provides valuable assistant for special occasions. We have an adult Sunday School as well as other bible study groups. As a community minded church, we stay involved in the activities in the area that help support others and bring unchurched to Christ.

What our community is like.

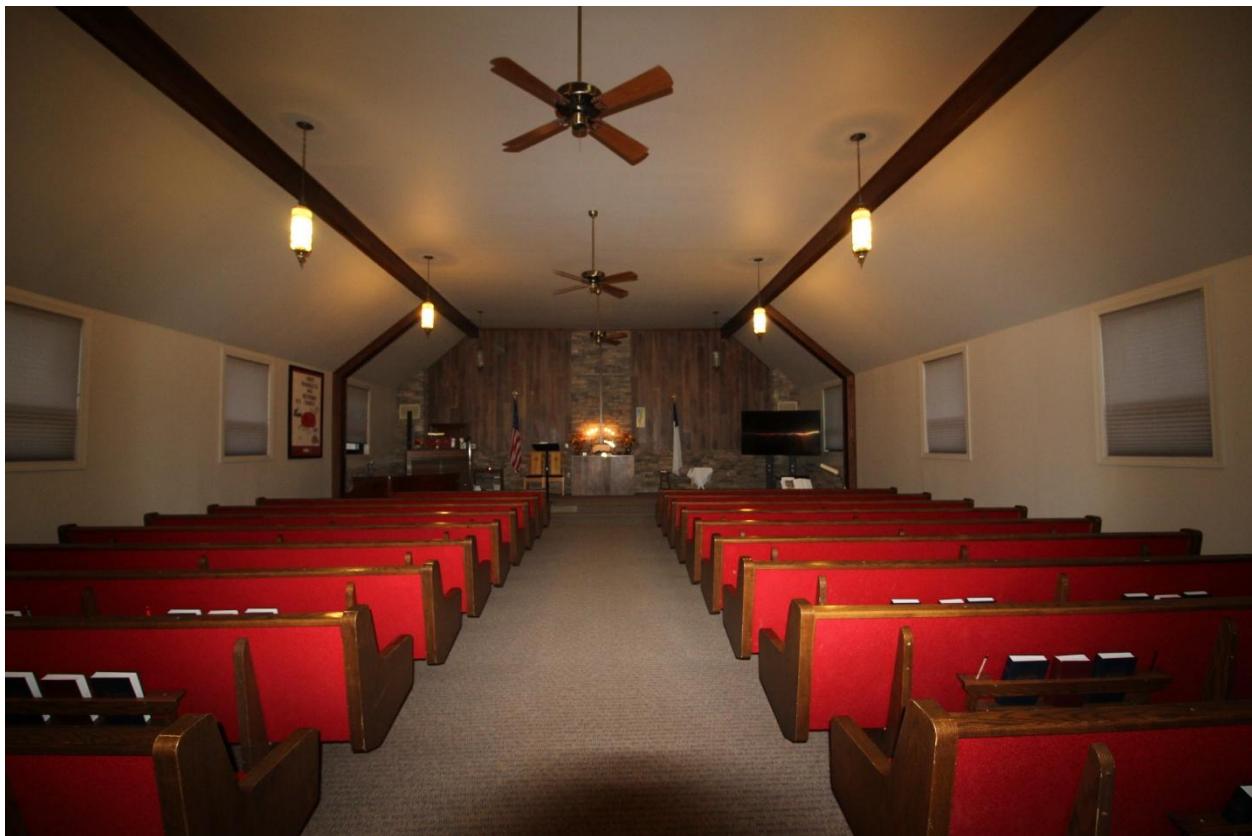
Hardin, MT is a town of approximately 4000 and Big Horn County is around 14,000 in population. It is a multi-cultural community with a large influence from the 2 Native American reservations, the Crow and Northern Cheyenne. The immediate area around Hardin has 19 churches, many as old as E and R, and some are much newer. Most congregations are smaller in size like E and R with aging congregations. There are 45 churches in the count of Big Horn.

The community is agricultural with many farms and ranches. Hardin is the county seat and an incorporated city. Other than agriculture, the largest employers are the City of Hardin, Big Horn County, State of MT, Healthcare, School systems, BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs), and HIS (Indian Health Services). The other industries that influence this area are hunting, fishing, boating, and tourism. It is located along I-90 and has many services focused on traffic from I-90. Hardin is about 45 minutes from Billings, the largest city in Montana, and the Logan International Airport.

Pastor strengths needed.

We are looking for a pastor that can

1. Provide scriptural based sermons.
2. Assist in the planning of worship.
3. Understands the needs of families.
4. Feels comfortable visiting and working with seniors.
5. Can provide leadership in Evangelism efforts.
6. Will help with a strategy for church growth.







Some History of E and R

Our church was started by German people who had been living in colonies in Russia, mostly along the Volga River in central Russia. These colonies had been established in the 1700s by the Empress Catherine the Great, who granted the Germans special privileges if they would settle and farm the barren steppes. When the Russian government began to revoke these privileges, several of the German colonists migrated to America. Many of them settled on the American Plains, which were like the Russian steppes where they had lived. With the coming of irrigation and the beginning of farming in Big Horn County, and the building of sugar factories, Germans from Russia began to settle here. With the restrictions on trade produced by World War I, sugar beets became an especially valuable crop. A number of these German settlers began to meet for worship services in the summer of 1916, and on January 7, 1917, a meeting was held to organize a German Evangelical Church. The church was a member of the (German) Evangelical Synod of North America. The cornerstone for a new church building was laid on Sunday, August 12, 1917. The lots for the church building were given to the congregation by Mr. E.L. Mitchell, who was at the time both mayor of Hardin and a real estate dealer. The Holly Sugar Company donated \$300 for the building of the new church, because they recognized that a church would be a strong inducement for Germans from Russia to settle here. With the donation and a loan from the synod, the church was built. The church underwent a period of trial during its early days because of anti-German sentiment caused by World War I. An anti-sedition law forbidding any meetings in the German language, including church services, forced the church to close for most of 1918. When it re-opened, police protection was required to prevent the services from being disrupted. Rev. A.G. Kroehler, a recent graduate of Eden Seminary in St. Louis, was the first regular pastor called after the church re-opened. He served from 1920 to 1923. After an absence of almost twenty-five years, he accepted a call to return to Hardin in 1948. The church had constructed a new parsonage adjacent to the church shortly before his arrival. After his arrival, it was voted to sell the church building and build a larger facility on the same site. Our present church building was dedicated on November 27, 1949. The old church building was moved to another site and served other congregations until it was moved to its present location at the Big Horn County Museum in 1981. It was during the second ministry of Rev. Kroehler in Hardin that the congregation gradually eliminated the use of the German language in its worship services. Since 1959 our services have been entirely in English. We have tried to retain a bit of our German heritage by singing carols in German at Christmas time, and a German choir has sometimes sung for funerals. Several additions and improvements to our church building have been made over the years. The original wooden siding on the church has been replaced by brick. In 1981 a new Fellowship Hall and Education Addition was constructed. An enclosed entry and foyer were built in 1987. The church has belonged to

several denominations in its history. It was originally part of the Evangelical Synod of North America. The synod merged with the Reformed Church in the United States in 1934, to form the Evangelical and Reformed Church. That denomination merged with the Congregational Christian Churches in 1957 to form the United Church of Christ. Our church was part of the U.C.C. until 1996. In that year we changed our affiliation to the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference, an Evangelical fellowship of congregationally governed churches which We felt was closer to the church's beliefs. Our church today continues in the same Evangelical Christian faith which led a dedicated group of newcomers to America to establish a church in 1917. We trust in the grace and power of an unchanging God to enable us to meet the new challenges of the twenty-first century.

CHRIST E & R CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT THROUGH 12/31/2024

	2024 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET
Pastor's Salary/Mileage	\$51,000.00	\$51,000.00	\$52,200.00
Conference Expenses	1,000.00	-0-	1,000.00
Custodian	3,878.76	3,878.76	3,878.76
Payroll Taxes	692.16	692.16	692.16
Utilities	8,000.00	6,059.13	8,000.00
Property Insurance	7,000.00	7,334.00	7,500.00
Property Taxes	800.00	784.26	800.00
Office & Church Supplies	2,000.00	1,604.25	2,000.00
Repairs & Supplies	3,000.00	438.84	3,000.00
Guest Speakers	500.00	-0-	500.00
Missions	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00
Conference Donations	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,650.00
Misc.	500.00	200.00	500.00
TOTAL	\$82,120.92	\$75,741.40 - 102.96 Ins Div.	\$83,820.92
		\$75,638.44	

Offering through 12/31/24	\$82,067.13
Hope for Israel Offering	\$ 1,754.00 (Entire amount sent in)
Rec'd for Sidewalks/Repairs	\$ 400.00
Checking Balance 12/31/24	\$26,290.73
7 Month CD	\$20,000.00 (Includes Hail ck \$10,928.34)
TOTAL	\$46,290.73

Missions:
 Helping Hands \$ 500.00
 Teilang (Gateway) 500.00
 Friendship Internat'l 800.00
 CCCC Micronesia 300.00
 Total \$2,100.00

Conference Donations:
 Great Plains Fellowship \$ 250.00
 CCCC General Fund 1,400.00
 Total \$1,650.00

Respectfully Submitted,



Jodeen Marston, Treasurer