

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Misplacing your wallet can make you become a *very* anxious person.

Case in point. Several weeks ago as I was preparing to go to the grocery store, it occurred to me that my wallet was not in the drawer where I characteristically place it after removing it from my pocket. I looked high and low, all over the house and in our vehicles; but the wallet was nowhere to be found.

The longer I searched, the more anxious I became. I hadn't driven anywhere in a few days, and so I was replaying everyplace I had been, going back several days. Had all of my personal information been in somebody else's hands for two or three days by that point? All of the worst possible scenarios played out in my mind; has somebody stolen my credit cards, my bank account information, my social security number, my driver's license? I was teetering on the edge of despair, fearing that my identity and credit, my "life," if you will, had been taken from me.

That despair gave way to joy when I finally did locate my wallet, tucked nicely between the driver's seat and the center console of my van, where apparently it had fallen out of the front pocket of my running pants several days earlier. Anxiety turned into relief; the fear of my "life" being taken from me turned into assurance that my identity and credit were still safe.

Those women who came to Jesus' tomb experienced despair turn to joy upon hearing those words that, "He has risen." After following him to the cross, and seeing his limp body hanging there, the thought must have crossed their minds, "where do we look now?" Seemingly, death still held dominion over their lives and sin would prevail in the end.

But upon hearing those words, and then seeing the risen Savior, they were assured that death would not have the final say and that their identities, identities as being claimed children of God, were still safe, and would be for all eternity. Their despair turned to joy, anxiety turned to relief. That's the power that the cross and the resurrection of Jesus Christ has in our lives.

My prayer is that during this Easter season that you all experience the power and the joy of the Risen Christ. Be filled with the assurance that while your "life" may get misplaced sometimes, that anxiety and despair, and sin and death may appear to have dominion over you, that your life is indeed in the safe and secure hands of the one who has promised that he will never lose you, but who values your life even more than you possibly could, and will give you the rewards of the kingdom.

Alleluia, He has risen.....He has risen indeed!!

In Christ,
Pastor Mark Laatsch

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

On Saturday, April 23rd from 9:00 am – 11:00 am, Pastor Mark will host a new member class for anyone wishing to join Emmanuel. During these two hours we will learn more about each other, our faith, and our church. We will then welcome our newest members the following day, Sunday, April 24th at our 8:00 am and 10:00 worship services. If you know of anyone who may be interested, or if you have any questions yourself about membership, please contact Pastor Mark in the church office.



Youth and Family Ministry

From the Director: Patti Treptow

As we proceed from our Lenten journey to the celebration of Easter Sunday we reflect on the meaningful opportunities we had to strengthen our faith and deepen our relationships with Christ and with each other. Our members of all ages acknowledged their shortcomings, their worries, and their sins and left them on the rocky path that led to the foot of the cross of Christ each Sunday during Lent. As the children tossed their rocks and ran to their Sunday school classrooms, we witnessed their eagerness to come together and learn about Jesus. We enjoyed fellowship and made new friends at the Lenten Soup Suppers as our confirmation students provided service to others while working the suppers. We came together to enjoy a night of skating, giving us another opportunity to have fun and strengthen friendships. Our Sunday school children experienced the joy of Palm Sunday as they marched in the palm procession. We joined with our 5th graders at the Lord's Table on Maundy Thursday as they participated in Holy Communion for the very first time, marking a very important step in their faith life. Our confirmation students engaged in another experience of service as they assembled Easter baskets, while our adult members made the deliveries, bringing Easter joy to our homebound members. Our high school youth announced that they have answered God's call to serve through a mission trip this summer; and, our congregation answered the call to help support them. On Easter Sunday, we found our sanctuary full as we gathered together as one family in Christ to worship our Risen Lord. May we keep this Easter joy in our hearts throughout the year as we continue to worship and participate in activities that do God's work and deepen our faith.

In the following pages you will find more information on our youth and family activities.....



Confirmation classes are back in session. The last four classes for this year are April 3rd, April 10th, April 17th, and April 24th. It is important to note that classes may be coming to end, but worship attendance and participation in service opportunities is important. A progress report will be emailed to parents showing the current number of worship sheets turned in and service activities recorded. This year's final due date for all worship sheets and service activities is September 1st, so those who are behind can work through the summer to catch up.

The end of the year essay will be distributed at the Sunday, April 3rd class. All confirmation students are asked to reflect and express in writing their thoughts on several questions. This essay provides an opportunity to articulate what was learned, not to test. Because parents play a critical role in the faith development of their children, it is hoped that both the student and the parent discuss these questions together. Essays will be collected on the last day of classes, Sunday, April 24th.

End of the Year Class Celebration
Sunday, April 24th



Confirmation students will gather for an afternoon of fun and fellowship at the Dome Lanes in Marinette, with dinner to follow at the church. Times are as follows:

Bowling: 4:00-5:30 p.m. - Dome Lanes, Marinette
Dinner: 5:45-7:00 p.m. - at church

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Palm Sunday Children's Palm Procession



5th Grade **First Communion**



Eleven 5th grade students completed four weeks of instruction during Lent to prepare for their First Holy Communion. The students and their families also celebrated the Lord's Supper with a symbolic Seder Meal and participated in their first Communion on Maundy Thursday. We welcome the following to the Lord's Table:

*Emma Aichner
Marisa Camps
Ryan Demmith
Avery Johnson
Ava Slawinski
Olivia Stewart*

*Beau Anders
Joseph Danielak
Gavin Hansen
Matthew Mellinger
Kaden Starzynski*

Thank you to Donna Hipke and Nancy Camps for preparing our Seder Meal. And, to Max Heckel, Mason Heckel, Boni Nerat-Heckel, and Genaveve Anders for helping with this special event.



The members of the Youth Advisory Council will be hosting a Bingo Party for the residents of the Luther Home on Sunday, April 17th from 1:30-2:30 p.m. The youth will be shopping for Bingo prizes on Sunday, April 10th, we will leave from church around 11:15, following worship services.

Planning continues for the **Mission Trip to the Leech Lake Indian Reservation**. See below for more information on this exciting call to discipleship that our youth have taken. Emmanuel's Youth Advisory Council is open to all of Emmanuel's high school youth and is great way to grow in faith and engage in fun and meaningful activities.



Our registrations are in! Ten of Emmanuel's youth advisory council will be participating in a mission trip to the Leech Lake Indian Reservation the week of July 5-8. We will be serving through painting, cleaning, yard work and other work projects. We will plan and lead kids programming for children in the community, including Bible lessons, games, and crafts. As our youth engage in discipleship and strengthen their faith, they will also have the opportunity to engage with friends of a unique background and learn about the Native American culture.

CONGREGATION.....THANK YOU!

On behalf of the ten Emmanuel Youth who will be participating in the mission trip to Leech Lake, Minnesota this July, thank you for your incredible and generous response to our financial support plea these past several weeks. In what must be Divine intervention, almost to the dollar, your willing generosity has paid for the remaining balance that we owed for the trip! As we prepare we continue to solicit your prayers and support, and we can't wait to get back and share with you all of the wonderful ways in which we serve and are served.

-- Pastor Mark Laatsch and Patti Treptow

Family Skate Night

The family night of skating hosted by the Youth Advisory Council on Sunday, March 6th was a huge hit! Here are a few glimpses of our youth and families enjoying some time together on the ice at the Marinette Civic Center.....



The members of the Youth Advisory Council would like to thank all who brought treats to share and for everyone who came out to enjoy this fun night of recreation and fellowship.

FORTUNE LAKE



for Sunday, April 3rd when Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp staff will be at Emmanuel to give a presentation during our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Many of us have great memories of Fortune Lake, and some of us have not been there since our child hood, and several of us have never visited. We will have an opportunity to learn more about the wonderful opportunities this camp has to offer our congregation. Camp staff will show a video of the camp and talk about its amenities and camping experiences for all ages. Fortune Lake staff will also be available in the narthex after worship to answer any questions you may have.

For a calendar of camping weeks and retreats, go to the camp website at www.fortunelake.org. or call the camp at 906-875-3697. Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp is located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula at 138 Fortune Lake Camp Road, Crystal Falls, Michigan. Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp is owned and operated by the 85 congregations of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the ELCA. It is licensed by the State of Michigan and works with the ELCA Outdoor Ministries network. Emmanuel supports Fortune Lake Camp and we want you to enjoy all it has to offer, please stop in the church office to get more information or to inquire about camp scholarships.



Witness and Service Ministry



Easter Basket Project



Members of our congregation along with our confirmation students collected items and put together Easter baskets for our shut-in members. These baskets were delivered during Holy Week.

Thank you to Natalie Delgoffe, Emma Laatsch, Abbey Leinonen, Hayden Myers, Alyssa Dura, Heather Camps, Kylie Chevalier, Alyssa Thayer, Cathy Hipke,

Dennis and Rose Draska, Barb Smith, Gail and Les Sieglaff, Lorraine Jacobson, and Connie Raboine for helping with this wonderful outreach project to our homebound members.





***Noisy Kettle Kick-Off
For
World Hunger***

Bring your loose change to worship service on Sunday, April 10th. During the 10:00 a.m. worship service, Sunday school children will be passing the kettle through the congregation collecting coins for World Hunger. The collection will continue in the narthex until May 1st. The money collected will be presented at the Northern Great Lakes Synod convention May 13th.



**Outdoor Church Grounds Clean-Up Day!
Saturday, April 9th
10:00 - 12:00 noon**

Spring is here! Members of all ages are invited to bring your own rake and help spruce up our church grounds. Please sign up in the church narthex or call the church office. A lunch of sloppy joes, chips, and beverages will be provided following our hard work!

A rain date has been set for Saturday, April 16th.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

Join us each Wednesday, 7:30 a.m., at the Serving Spoon for a wonderful time of fellowship with friends, sharing stories, and enjoying a cup of coffee. Bring a friend!

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The *Sarah Circle* will meet on Tuesday, April 12, at 1:00 p.m. in the church library, Ardyce Wells will be the hostess.

Seeking Enlightenment Group will be meeting on Thursday, April 21, at 6:30pm. It is a time of sharing and encouraging each other on our Christian journey, contact Robin Gustafson at 906-290-1003 or Jackie Kolaszewski at 906-290-1158 for location details.

Thank you, Clarence Spencer

For about the last 3 years, Clarence has folded and stapled our Sunday bulletins and also our Christmas and Easter bulletins. Memorial books for Easter and Christmas were also folded and stapled by Clarence.

While the new office copier has now taken over Clarence's volunteer job, it can't replace the dedication of his weekly service to our congregation. We are grateful to Clarence for continuing his service with another group of dedicated volunteers – the people who meet each month to help with the mailing of the Messenger. Thank you Clarence for all you have done and continue to do for Emmanuel and our congregation

DECORATING COMMITTEE CHURCH WIDE **BASEMENT SALE**

Emmanuel's Decorating Committee is planning a Church Wide Basement Sale on **Saturday, May 14th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Room. Please keep this in mind when you are doing your Spring Cleaning. We are asking that you donate clean, usable, salable items. Suggested items are kitchen items, small tools, gardening equipment, small pieces of furniture, toys, bicycles, jewelry, games, books, collectibles, small electronics, CD's and DVD's, craft items, and sporting equipment. We CANNOT except exercise equipment, microwaves or TV's. Please make sure your items are not broken and if applicable are in good working order. **Only children's clothing (size baby 0 to 18 youth)** will be accepted. Clothing and shoes must be in gently used - new condition (no sign of wear or stains). No items will be returned to the donor after the Basement Sale. Any items that are not sold or are deemed not salable will be donated to charity. There will be a Sunday school classroom available for the collection/storage of items in advance of the Basement Sale.

Proceeds from the Basement Sale will be used to pay for a beautiful Wall Mural which is in the planning phase for the Fellowship Room. We also intend to freshly paint all of the walls and update the wall decorations. The Fellowship Room is one of the focal points of Emmanuel. It is used by our members, our youth, and several outside organizations. It is used for church meetings and for many family events including wedding and baby showers, graduation parties, and funeral luncheons. Please consider helping us beautify this important aspect of our church.

Our fellow Emmanuel member, Lynne Sheldon, daughter of members Dan and Marie Crocker, is the artist that will be creating the Mural. Lynne has painted many murals in the local area which include the following church member's homes and businesses: Dr. Troy Clausen's dental office,