

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Where has the time gone!?

One year ago I was blessed to assume the pastorate here at Emmanuel, and looking back now, it's quite incredible what this change has meant. I am in closer proximity to my extended family and am able to visit with my parents with much more frequency. My loving wife, Amy, has created a warm and welcoming home. My children have said their goodbyes to wonderful friends in Illinois and have been embraced by new acquaintances in Menominee and are solidifying these incredible new relationships.

In my pastoral role, I have been blessed to have presided in worship as young people have been claimed in the waters of baptism, affirmed baptismal vows during the Rite of Confirmation, stood with families as their loved ones joined with the saints in Christ that have gone before them, preached the Word, shared the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and laughed and sang during Bible School. It's a long list that goes on and on and on.

And while all of these actions are elements of my call as a Lutheran Pastor (yes, I'm a lucky guy!), the element that can often bring you the most joy is the element of surprise. And, my friends, the element of surprise is something else that I've experienced over and over in the incredible generosity of God's people that make up Emmanuel Lutheran Church. I saw it in your response when I was installed as pastor here last June. I saw it in the wonder and celebratory manner when we burned the sanctuary mortgage last September. I saw it when you willingly and faithfully answered the call for help in maintaining full staffing in January. I saw it when our High School kids went before you asking for your support in their mission trip this summer. I saw it when we gathered together during a gorgeous April Saturday to clean up the church yard. I've seen it in the funeral luncheons and in Sunday

School and during our Fellowship hour. Again, it's a long list that goes on and on and on.

Your generosity has been on display since day one of my arrival, and as I roll into my second year of ministry here at Emmanuel, that generosity has given me great excitement about our potential as a congregation and of the many wonderful and exciting moments that are yet before us. As I have now settled into the rhythms and patterns of life here at Emmanuel, I have now been given the opportunity to look to the future and plan accordingly, and I couldn't be more excited.

For I see that generosity continuing in countless ways. Emmanuel's newly formed Outreach Committee has some wonderful ideas in which we can minister to our friends and neighbors right here in our immediate community. Our fellowship opportunities have room to grow and our newly minted Friendship Room gives us the flexibility to grant us this focus. Our Youth Activities Committee will step into the mission field for the first time this summer and are an incredible group of young people who are busting at the seams with ideas and a hearts to serve. The possibilities are endless. And, more importantly, so is the desire to carry these possibilities out.

So, again, thank you for your incredible generosity. But, more importantly, thank you for willingness and encouragement to continue to be so. It is because of you all that Emmanuel has a solid foundation on which has been built a faithful past, which is propeling her into the future. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of that future. I can't wait to see where the Spirit leads us!

In Christ,
Pastor Mark Laatsch

PLEDGE PLUS UPDATE

In February, a letter was sent to the congregation implementing the Pledge Plus program again this year. The response has been wonderful! To date, we have received \$4,660.00 in Pledge Plus giving. As you will remember, a balanced budget was approved at the annual meeting in January, which included a 10% reduction in staffing hours for the lay employees; i.e., church secretary, custodians, Youth and Family Ministry Director and Director of Operations. Because of your generosity in contributions to Pledge Plus and increased general giving, we have not had to make these reductions, yet. We have been able to chip away at the possible deficit, but we are aware that with summer, attendance and giving decreases. It is possible that these staffing hour cuts would have to be implemented in the fall if we don't keep the deficit covered. Right now our budget is at a \$2,455.00 deficit. Ahead of the projected deficit, but not quite there!

Our congregation has been wonderfully generous over the past few months with various special projects that have arisen. The furnace needed to be replaced, our high school youth will be attending a retreat in Minnesota this summer, support for the Gideons, world hunger – these are just a few of the projects that funding was needed for over and above our normal budgeted expenses – and the response from you, our congregation, was overwhelming! We thank you for stepping up and making all of these outreach programs possible. But, we also need to keep our general fund giving on track, to make sure our “behind the scenes” everyday expenses of our church and congregation are funded. Even though we take our vacations and time off, the work of the church does not.

If you have not had the opportunity to make a contribution to the Pledge Plus, you can still do that. Consider it an “in-reach” program to our budget, so we can continue to do the work God has called us to do: here at church, in the community, and the world. Pledge Plus envelopes are available at the end of each pew, in the narthex, or in the church office, or you can just note that your check or contribution is for Pledge Plus. **WE ARE TRULY THANKFUL AND APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR SUPPORT OF EMMANUEL'S MINISTRIES, AND LOOK FORWARD TO KEEPING THE FIRE BURNING!**

Stewardship Committee

Kathy Bero, Debbie Villas, Cookie Kramer



Youth and Family Ministry

From the Director: Patti Treptow

Our learning programs may be done for the summer, but there are many things still going on at Emmanuel! This month we are introducing the newsletter "Parenting Christian Kids". Even if you are not a parent, you will find the information in this resource valuable. We all interact with children at some level; it could be a child in our extended family or our church family, a neighbor, a child of a friend, or even the teenager who is the cashier at the local store. After you have read through the articles and information in this resource, please share it and pass it on.

Planning continues for our summer activities. There will be many opportunities for you to get involved and share your time and talents. This month we are finalizing plans for the high school youth mission trip. Work continues on preparing for our ever popular Vacation Bible School. This month we begin organizing ideas and plans for Emmanuel's float for the August Waterfront Festival parade. It won't be long, and we will begin planning for our annual Rally Sunday picnic.

Along with all these summer church activities and our family vacations, worship services continue every Sunday! Whether you attend here at Emmanuel or visit another church while on vacation, find a way to make worship a part of your summer schedule.

In the following pages you will find more information on our youth and family programs and activities and ways to get involved.....



Classes may have ended for the school year, but summer brings opportunity to catch up on worship sheets and service activities. Service Record sheets are due September 1st. Students who still need church service activities can help with Vacation Bible School, the Rally Sunday Picnic, read or usher for a worship service. Those who need community service activities can help with the church float for the Waterfront parade. If you need other ideas, please contact Patti at the church office.

The Confirmation Retreat is set for September 17th-18th at Camp Bird. More information and registration forms will be sent out late August to all incoming confirmation students, current confirmation students, and those who will be confirmed this October.

The Rite of Confirmation for our students who have completed two years of instruction and will become 9th graders this fall, is set for Reformation Sunday, October 30th, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.



High School Graduate Honor

Emmanuel's high school graduates will be honored at our "Graduation Recognition" during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on June 5th. A reception will follow in the narthex. If you have not yet registered, please call the church office. All graduates are to gather in the Friendship Room just off of the narthex between 9:30-9:45 a.m. to prepare for the processional.

Sunday School

A few glimpses of our last day, Sunday, May 15th, where our children recited their class memory challenges and celebrated the year with an ice cream sundae party.





Tuesday-Thursday
July 26, 27, & 28
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade this fall are invited to learn how Jesus cares for us in this summer's "**Pets Unleashed**" VBS! Children will engage in amazing experiences that will guide them through God's Word in unforgettable, multisensory, thought-provoking ways that make Scripture come alive! Our children will also participate in a service project to benefit the local animal shelter. Each day we will be treated to a special pet visitor who will teach the children how pets help us and how we can help them. On the final day, we will have the

opportunity to meet a K9 dog and officer and learn how the Menominee County Sheriff Department uses their dog in law enforcement.



Children 6th grade and older can also participate as crew helpers or station helpers. Please let us know if your older child would like to help! This is a great

way for them to get involved, learn Bible lessons, and learn leadership skills. **Parents, grandparents, and adult members** can also get involved in this summer's VBS! Contact the church office if you would like to volunteer to participate in the many opportunities available.

Parents, to register your child for VBS, please complete the registration form that is included in the newsletter. Please mail, turn in, email, or fax to the church office. Additional forms are available in the church office.

Deadline to register is **Sunday, July 10th**.





There are also other ways you can help with VBS! We need:

1. Help setting up the scenes 10:00 a.m. – Noon, on Monday, July 25th.
2. Donate food items for snacks: Potato Chips (plain), Pre-sweetened Koolaide, Juice Boxes, Fruit Snacks, 9" paper plates, and 9 oz. plastic cups.
3. Sponsor a Child: A donation of \$10.00 will help to cover the cost of materials, food, and supplies. Your gift can be brought in or mailed to the church office.
4. Help taking down the scenes 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 31st.



"Parenting Christian Kids" Newsletter



The June edition will be handed out at our worship services Sunday, June 5th. This contemporary newsletter is filled with articles, parenting principles, pointers and more, all focused on a relevant, monthly theme. It also contains reviews of movie and music releases and cultural trends and statistics that provide insights for parents.

Additional copies of the June edition will be available in the narthex and on the church website.

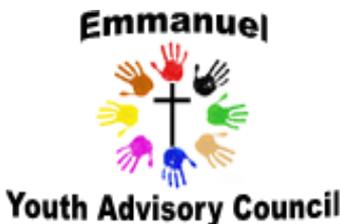


MISSION TRIP

Ten of Emmanuel's youth are set to participate in our first mission trip. We depart on July 5th and return on July 8th. We are excited to work with the people of the Leech Lake community and the other youth from various congregations who will also be participating in this week of serving.

Parents, please turn in all permission/release forms for the trip to the church office by Sunday, June 19th.

Emmanuel's youth who are attending are: Olivia Anderson, Kyle Anderson, Arikah Bellisle, Lauren Clausen, Kendell Klatt, Jacob Laatsch, Mandy Mellinger, Lexi Nast, Matt Nowack, and Amber Raygo. Pastor Mark and Patti Treptow will be chaperoning our youth on the trip. Please keep us all in your prayers as we continue to prepare for our trip.



Upcoming meetings:
Sunday, June 26th
9:00 a.m. in the
"Friendship Room"

Emmanuel's Youth Advisory Council is open to all of Emmanuel's high school youth and is a great way to grow in faith and engage in fun and meaningful activities. Please join us at our next meeting!



FORTUNE LAKE

Openings are still available for camping weeks at Fortune Lake Bible Camp. 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.

Don't miss out.....register soon!



Waterfront **Parade** Float



It's time to start planning Emmanuel's float!!

Anyone who is interested in helping with our float is welcome to attend a kickoff meeting on Sunday, June 12th at 9:00 a.m. in the Friendship Room. Grab a cup of coffee and join us to get the ball rolling for this fun event.

If you cannot make this meeting and are interested in helping with the float or walking in the parade, please sign up on the float sign-up sheet. Parade date is Sunday, August 7th.

***CELEBRATION OF PASTOR MARK'S
1ST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS INSTALLATION
ON JUNE 26, 2015***

Pastor Mark's Service of Installation was held at Emmanuel on June 28, 2015. We are now planning his 1st anniversary, following the 10:00 a.m. church service on June 26th. We will have sign-up sheets for those who are willing to either set-up, serve or clean up afterwards. We will also have a sign-up sheet for those who would be willing to make a dish to pass or a dessert. We are hoping that our Emmanuel family will share their special dishes or deserts on this day. We are Blessed to have Pastor Mark and his family here at Emmanuel.

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 not meet for the summer.

Seeking Enlightenment Group will be meeting on Thursday, June 23, 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 to *Amy Lenca* and *Brody Nerat* who have been volunteering to vacuum our church. Both are not able to do it any longer. We are looking for someone to volunteer for an hour or two each week. If you are able to please call the church office.

OUR EMMANUEL FAMILY

MEMBERS CALLED HOME BY GOD...

Carol Walter passed away on May 12. Carol had a private funeral at the church on May 16. Our sympathy to her husband, Jim, and daughter, Wendy.

Ginny Marineau passed away on May 23. Ginny's funeral was held at Emmanuel on May 26. Ginny had joined the church in November of 2015. Our sympathy to her husband, Gary.

Doris Dettman passed away on November 1, 2015. Doris's celebration of life service will be held at Emmanuel on June 4. Our sympathy to her family.

THANK YOU

Emmanuel's Decorating Committee extends a **LARGE THANK YOU to the congregation** for their generous donations to our Basement Sale which was held on Saturday, May 14th. The event was deemed a huge success by not only the amount of items donated, or the number of attendees/buyers (estimated at 250+ people) but by the amount of money raised. The total amount was approximately \$1,000.00 which includes the profits from the food and refreshments that were sold. We would also like to provide a **LARGE THANK YOU to our volunteer helpers: Denise Ruleau, Joe Kolaszewski, Lorraine Jacobson, Christa Holmsted, Marilyn Mouritsen, Pete Anderson, and Rosemary and Dennis Draska.** We could have not accomplished everything without you!! Also, a **LARGE THANK YOU to Scott Nerat** for his generous donation of large banner which was placed on the lawn to promote the sale. Last but not least, we would like to give a **LARGE THANK YOU to Thrivent Financial** for sponsoring and supporting the Basement Sale. All of the donated items that were not sold were transported and donated to St. Vincent de Paul.

As a reminder, the proceeds from the Basement Sale will be used to pay (in its entirety) the beautiful proposed Wall Mural for the Fellowship Room which will be created by Lynne Sheldon, daughter of members Dan and Marie Crocker. 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. In addition, it is used for church meetings and for many family events including wedding and baby showers, graduation parties, and funeral luncheons. If you were unable to donate items to the Basement Sale but would be interested in financially supporting the balance of the beautification of the Fellowship Room, please contact one of the committee members or Judy Raygo in the church office. Any amount would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you and God's Blessings,
Jeanne Anderson, Marc Jamo, Dorothy Jozwiak & Amy Laatsch

