

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Joy.

Pure and simple joy. There was joy in worship. There was joy in the fellowship that took place between services. There was joy during the potluck. There was a whole lot of joy in the kitchen (I think there were more people in the kitchen than in the fellowship room!). There was joy in the food and the laughter and the opportunities to connect and reconnect with one another.

I think yesterday's anniversary celebration is a shining example of not only what the church can be, but exactly what Christ calls the church to be. It was an opportunity to step outside of the norm, but yet in doing so, to celebrate the ministry that we have completed and look forward to where Christ is leading us from here. I couldn't tell you where that is, but I'm certainly very much looking forward to the journey.

But, ironically, yesterday was also a day where I personally experienced some mourning in that at the exact same time that we were celebrating our blessings, another church that has a permanent impression upon me and was very much instrumental in my discernment of pastoral ministry, New Hope Lutheran Church in Farley, Iowa, were worshipping for the final time before the church shut its doors. Having never been able to rise above its mission status, their respective synod had to make the very difficult decision to discontinue financially supporting the church.

But as I scrolled through my Facebook posts last evening and sought out the pictures from their last service, what jumped out to me in looking at them was that joy seemed to be present all over the place there. In their words and in their pictures, there was

nothing but joy for the ministry that they were able to accomplish and be part of for the past 13 years. In addition, even though the church building will no longer house Sunday services, this group of people continue to make future plans for Bible School, Logos (an afterschool program), and Bible studies. And it is all being done with joyful hearts.

Two churches. Two completely different scenarios. Yet, that common element of joy that is found when we step aside and allow the Spirit to permeate through our hands, hearts, and voices. Jesus' parting words to His disciples, the last two verses of the Great Commission ring out here in tying these two wonderful and faithful churches together: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

As Christians, we are called to mission and when we remember that God is present with us when we experience His greatest blessings and just as present with us when we are burdened with spirit crushing trials, it is so much easier to keep that perspective of joy present in our lives as we carry out that mission. In knowing that God will never abandon us and will work through our roadblocks or use us to work through them, we are continually emboldened to live lives of discipleship.

For it is in discipleship that the greatest joy is found; in following Jesus, however blindly, but knowing that there is a place for you. May you always know that place, a place maybe not necessarily inside a church building, but at the foot of the cross and in the presence of God, wherever that may be.

In Christ,  
Pastor Mark Laatsch

## *Thank you*

To everybody who showed me that the honeymoon isn't over yet!! The anniversary potluck was certainly a celebration of our church community and God's faithfulness to us. Thank you so much for the cards, wishes, acknowledgements, prayers, and support. Our first year here has been blessings filled and Spirit led. I can't wait to see how God shows Himself to us in year two!  
Pastor Mark, Amy, Jacob, Emma, and Isaac Laatsch.

## Finance Update

Through May, our total offerings and other receipts are \$102,711.00.

Total expenditures as of this date are \$105,406.00, which leaves us with a year to date deficit of \$2,695.00.



Check out Emmanuel's new Website !!

[www.e-mmanuel.com](http://www.e-mmanuel.com)



## ***Youth and Family Ministry***

*From the Director: Patti Treptow*

Summer is usually a more quiet time at church....but not at Emmanuel! Many fun and exciting things are happening.

After months of preparing, Pastor Mark and I, along with ten of our high school youth will venture out to do God's work as we embark on our first mission trip. We are all looking forward to sharing God's Word and using our hands to do His work at the Leech Lake Indian Reservation at Cass Lake, Minnesota. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. More information about our trip can be found further down in this newsletter.

A summer favorite for our younger children is Vacation Bible school.....this year is no exception. Our theme "Pets Unleashed" will bring adventures in how Jesus cares for us and how we can care for others. Each day of VBS, presenters from various animal organizations will teach us how animals help us in our world and how we can care and provide for them. Our children will also engage in service by making pet toys for the local animal shelter. Look for more information for this summer's VBS in this newsletter.

Emmanuel's float plans are coming together. Our theme is "Growing in Faith". We encourage all youth, families, and individuals to join us in decorating and walking with the float in the Waterfront parade. This is a fun event that entails fellowship along with service and outreach to our community. More information on ways you can get involved is found further along in this newsletter.

Planning will start very soon on our annual church picnic on Rally Sunday. Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> where we will enjoy the beauty of Henes Park and the fellowship of each other. Watch for more information on this traditional event!

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



**Worship Sheets and Service Activities:** All confirmation students are reminded to continue turning in your worship sheets. Summer is a great time to get caught up on your requirements. This is also a great time to engage in service activities. Please contact the church office to sign up for helping with Vacation Bible School, Emmanuel's Waterfront Parade Float, and/or the Rally Sunday church picnic.

**The Confirmation Retreat** is set for September 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> graders this fall, is set for Reformation Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.



Emmanuel's high school graduates were honored at our "Graduation Recognition" during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to:

*Kelsey Evans*  
*Jacob Leow*

*Whitney Klatt*  
*Travis Melka*  
*Megan Philipps*

*Elijah Krah*  
*Amanda Peterson*

Thank you to Jean Smith for making and donating the delicious cake that was served during the graduate reception.



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

Children entering Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> 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 engage in service by making pet toys for the animals at the Menominee 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:



Tuesday: Menominee Animal Shelter  
Wednesday: Oscar the Therapy Mini Horse  
Thursday: Rudy the Therapy & Reader Dog  
and  
Avery from the Menominee Sheriff's  
Department Canine Unit

**Children 6<sup>th</sup> 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 gain 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 be a crew leader.

Parents, to register your child for VBS, complete the registration form that was mailed to you or obtain one in the church office or from the church website at [www.e-mmanuel.com](http://www.e-mmanuel.com) Please mail, turn in, email, or fax to the church office.

Deadline to register is **Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>**





## **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 25<sup>th</sup>.
2. Donate food items for snacks: Potato Chips (plain), Pre-sweetened Kool-aid, Fruit Snacks, 9" heavy weight "chinet-type" 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**

**parenting**  
CHRISTIAN  
**kids**

The July edition will be handed out at our worship services Sunday, July 3rd. 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 July edition will be available in the narthex and on the church website at [www.e-mmanuel.com](http://www.e-mmanuel.com)

*We are willing and we are ready to  
go where God is sending us!*



## MISSION TRIP

Ten of Emmanuel's high school youth are set to participate in our first mission trip. We depart on July 5<sup>th</sup> and return on July 8<sup>th</sup> where we will do God's work with our hands as we work with the people of the Leech Lake Indian Reservation on Cass Lake in Minnesota.

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.

Thank you to all who have supported us in this important call of discipleship. Please continue to keep us all in your prayers.

Join us this **Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> during the 9:00 worship service** for a special commissioning rite for our youth who will be serving on this mission trip.



## 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](http://www.fortunelake.org). or call the camp at 906-875-3697. 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.



## Waterfront **Parade** Float



### "Growing in Faith"

The theme is set and the building of our float will start soon! If you are interested in decorating and/or walking with our float during the parade, please sign up in the church narthex or contact the church office. Parade date is Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. Watch for decorating dates on our Facebook page and in the Sunday bulletins.

### Cup of Joe Ministry"



Everyone is invited to enjoy coffee and other beverages, baked goods and treats, and fellowship during our 9:00 a.m. coffee hour between worship services in the narthex.

We are looking for people to help with this important ministry. We need people to sign up for hosting the coffee hour. This entails making the coffee (which the church provides), setting the serving table in the narthex, and then doing clean-up. We also need people to donate treats. Please sign up on the chart in the narthex. If you have any questions, please call Amy Laatsch at 906-424-0702.

Last week for handing in Campbells Soup labels in the church office. They are used for our Menominee School System.

# *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, July 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.

*Northland Lutheran Retirement Community* would like to thank the ladies of Emmanuel Lutheran Church for hosting their monthly birthday celebration on June 16. It is through the support of many kind and caring individuals such as Emmanuel Lutheran that makes this birthday celebration a special day for our residents.

## *OUR EMMANUEL FAMILY*

### MEMBERS . . .

*Kimberly Evans* and *Matt Spear* were united in marriage on June 18, in Green Bay.

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## Emmanuel's Monarch Garden



Thank you to Jackie Kolaszewski and April Starzynski for cleaning up the garden and the new plantings!



Gifts of crabapple trees from our interim Pastors, Pastor Lee Goodwin, Pastor Rick DeBenedetto, Pastor Ken Michael's, and Pastor Craig Mansur were planted this spring.

Thank you to Deb LaComb for planting the trees.



# Celebration and Fellowship

A celebration of Pastor Mark's 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of his installation at Emmanuel was held on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> with a potluck following the 10:00 a.m. service. We are certainly blessed to have Pastor Mark, his wife Amy, children Jacob, Emma, and Issac as part of Emmanuel's family! Thank you to all who helped with the food and fellowship that we enjoyed at the potluck luncheon. Here are a few glimpses of the wonderful time we had together.....

