

(13:1-5)

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, ELCA

2901 13th Street

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Menominee, MI 49858

Dear Friends,

Emmanuel is at an exciting moment in its life. The calling of a new pastor is a critical turning point as we give thanks for the leadership God has provided in the past and look forward to new pastoral leadership to accompany and guide us into the future.

On the weekend of February 14-15, the Call Committee has invited Pr. Mark Laatsch to return to Menominee to meet you, the members of the congregation, and to preach and lead worship on Sunday morning. Please mark your calendars for the following events.

Saturday, February 14

2:00-4:00 p.m. – Reception
Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 15

8:00 & 10:00 a.m. – Worship
Coffee hour between services

Pr. Laatsch currently serves a small congregation in rural northern Illinois. He has served there since his ordination in January of 2011. He graduated from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He is married to Amy and has three children: Jacob, Emma and Isaac. Prior to completing seminary and ordination, he serves as a hospice chaplain and mental health residential treatment worker.

In his resume, Pr. Laatsch describes himself as “respectful of the setting in which I am called to serve, adaptable and open to learning.” A significant part of that learning comes through careful listening. Pr. Mark has indicated that listening to the stories of people’s lives is one of the great pleasures in ministry. He also indicates that “one of my great strengths is that I have a wonderful sense of humor... God didn’t make me perfect and I’ll be the first to tell you.” He has a deep commitment to and finds much joy in youth and family ministries.

This is Pr. Laatsch’s personal ministry statement: “I was blessed to hear the news of God’s love for the world made known to us through the person of Jesus Christ from the moment that I was baptized. I have been called to live out this incredible love by sharing it through Word and Sacrament as an ordained minister, encouraging others to experience this love as well, empowering them to share this same message for generations to come.”

This upcoming visit by Pastor Laatsch is not the end of the larger call process. After Pr. Laatsch has met with the congregation and led worship, the call committee will be meeting to vote (2/3 majority required) on whether to nominate Pastor Laatsch as Emmanuel’s Pastor. IF that vote is affirmative, then on Sunday, February 22, at a Congregation al Meeting, you will be presented with two resolutions: the first is to vote on extending a Call to Pastor Laatsch (paper ballot/two-thirds majority required for passage) and the second is to approve a compensation package (simple majority by voice vote required for passage – see enclosure).

So, please mark your calendars for yet another very important date in Emmanuel's life.

Congregational Meeting
February 22, 2015
10:00 a.m.

There will be only one worship service on the 22nd at 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School will be held during worship and
Child care provided during the congregational meeting.

The only matters before us at this meeting will be the resolution to call a pastor and pastoral compensation. If the Call Committee does not choose to recommend a pastor, there will still be just one worship service followed by an informal congregational forum to simply discuss our next steps.

This is obviously a crucial moment in Emmanuel's life. Please make every effort to meet Pr. Mark on **Saturday, February 14th, between 2 and 4 p.m. and on Sunday morning, February 15th**. Also, your presence at the Congregational Meeting on the 22nd will only give greater support to the decisions that will be considered on that day. Given Emmanuel's history of long pastorates, this is one of the few opportunities each member has to help shape our future in this important way – please don't miss this historic moment!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Jackie Kolaczewski
Congregational President

KEY UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

2 – 4 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL – EMMANUEL

INFORMAL RECEPTION FOR PASTOR MARK LAATSCH & AMY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

WORSHIP 8 & 10:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP HOUR BETWEEN SERVICES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY – 9:00 AM

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – 10:00 AM



PROPOSED COMPENSATION PACKAGE

The following compensation package was negotiated between Bishop Skrenes and the pastor. The Congregation Council recommends it for final approval at the call meeting scheduled for February 22 at 10:00 a.m. It is the practice of our Synod for the Bishop to establish the first compensation package in conversation with the candidate and based on guidelines provided by the congregation. Once a candidate is called, compensation is established by the Congregation annually when it approves its budget at the annual Congregational Meeting.

1. Cash Salary	\$43,000.00
2. Housing Allowance	<u>13,000.00</u>
3. Subtotal (Lines 1 + 2)	\$56,000.00
4. Social Security (Line 3 x .0765)	<u>4,284.00</u>
5. Defined Compensation (Lines 3+4)	\$60,000.00

Portico Benefit Services
(formerly Board of Pensions)

6. Pension (12%)	\$7,234.00
7. Health (Member, spouse & children)	19,954.00
8. Disability (2.5%)	1,507.00
9. Basic Group Life (.8%)	483.00
10. Retiree Support (.7%)	<u>422.00</u>
11. Total Portico Benefits	\$29,600.00
 TOTAL (Lines 5+11)	 \$89,884.00

Moving Expenses	Yes
Continuing Education	\$830/year
Auto Allowance	Reimbursed at IRS Rate (\$.575/mile)
Vacation	4 weeks per year (Including Sundays)
Continuing Ed Time	2 weeks per year (not including Sundays)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting To Call a Pastor

We have come to an historic moment in the life of our congregation.

We will vote on calling our next Pastor

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Worship – 9:00 a.m.

One Service Only/Nursery Care Provided

Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.

Congregational Call Meeting – 10:00 a.m. (about ½ hour)

Child care available during our Congregational Meeting

**This is a unique event in Emmanuel's life and your presence is essential.
Please make every effort to attend, to express your thoughts about the
pastoral candidate and to cast your ballot.**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO CALL A PASTOR
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
February 22, 2015

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order - Determination of number of voting members present (quorum needed)
- II. Opening Prayer
- III. Presentation of the resolution to Call a Pastor by the Congregational President.
 - A. **“Shall Pr. Mark Laatsch be called as Pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church?”**
 - B. Moved by the Congregation Council/Call Committee. Second from the floor.
 - C. Call committee members are asked to speak to the resolution
 - D. Any others in the congregation are invited to speak to the resolution.
 - E. When the assembly is ready to vote, tellers are asked to distribute the ballots.
 - F. Prayer before voting
 - G. After voting ballots are collected by the tellers who then report the exact number of votes in favor and opposed to the resolution. 2/3 of those present and voting are necessary for adoption.
 - H. The chair declares the result of the vote and adoption of the resolution.
 - I. If the candidate is called, the following resolution is presented. Moved by Congregation Council/Call Committee. Second from the floor.

“Shall the budge of the congregation be amended to allow for the following compensation for the pastor elect?” (see Proposed Compensation Package)
 - J. A voice vote (simple majority to adopt) is required.
 - K. The chair announces the result and declares the adoption of the resolution.
- IV. Closing Remarks by Congregational President
- V. Closing Hymn & Dismissal