

*Emanuel Lutheran Church
January 2024
Enlightener*



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**Emanuel Lutheran Church: 906-942-7245
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Emanuel Lutheran Church of Skandia , ELCA



**The January Enlightener
Emanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA
P.O. Box 160
Skandia, MI 49885**

*Emanuel Lutheran Church is a people centered
in Christ, rich in heritage and beauty; living out
Christ's openness to all. Our ministry is to
spread the Word of God in our community
through service, education and fellowship,
creating a sense of family as we break bread
together in the company of Christ.*

Join Us for our Sunday Services at 9 AM

Congregational Leadership

Michael Holman, LLM
 (231)824-6757 (cell) Email: holmi@1fj.com
 Office Hours: Tuesday 1-5pm, Thurs. 9am-2pm

Council Members

Barb Bach
 Ronda Barr
 Richard Cooke
 Christie Johnson
 Leah Kainulainen
 Sarah Kimball

Committee Leaders

Barb Bach ~ Stewardship
 Sarah Kimball ~ Outreach
 Betsy Koski ~ Christian Education
 Jane Sims ~ Worship/Music
 Pam Bahrman ~ Cemetery Business Manager
 Dale Weingartner ~ Building & Property

Office

Jolene Kokko ~
 Office Assistant

Emanuel Lutheran Church has both a Facebook page and website! Catch up on upcoming and past events, our monthly calendar and Enlightener newsletters at

www.be-lutheran.org



Sunday Worship begins at 9 a.m.

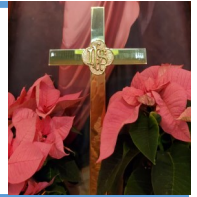
All are Welcome!

2024 Worship Times at Emanuel Lutheran Church
Jan.-Feb 9AM/Mar-June 11AM

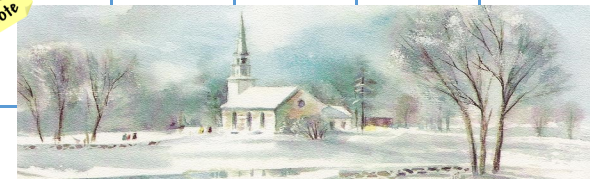
January 2024

Michael: Tues & Thurs. 10am-3pm

Jolene: Wed & Fri. 10:30am-2:30pm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Sat
	1 AA Meeting 7PM	2	3	4	5	6
7 9AM Worship 10:30 Adult Forum	8 AA Meeting 7PM	9	10	11	12	13
14 9AM Worship 10:30 Adult Forum	15 AA Meeting 7PM	16	17	18	19	20
21 9AM Worship 10:30 Adult Forum	22 AA Meeting 7PM	23	24	25	26	27
28 9AM Worship Annual Meeting Brunch Potluck	29 AA Meeting 7PM	30	31			



December Council Meeting Highlights

~ Devotions led by Michael with “Dwelling in the Word” reading of Acts 16:6-15 “Paul’s Second Missionary Journey” and reflection followed with provided questions. All are encouraged to read the monthly readings supplied by Northern Great Lakes Synod and joining them via zoom for follow-up discussion, all information found on their website: www.nglsynod.org

~It was a joy seeing our community visit during our recent event on Saturday, December 16.

~Correspondence: Thank you letters received from Special Olympics for our benevolence in August, Superior Watershed Partnership & Land conservancy for benevolence in October, for Thanksgiving meal basket, and a Christmas Meal basket upon delivery today.

~Our Christmas Eve worship has been changed to 7 pm since Bethany of Negaunee has worship at 5 pm.

~Twenty Christmas baskets shopped for/some delivered today. We will collect new and gently used snow boot and snowpants for the Gwinn Schools. Sarah will use the approved in June \$200 to purchase some, and also we will collect items in January.

~Oil tank was filled for the sanctuary heat on December 13. Propane tank is at 50%.

~Faith Formation Classes will begin in January & February . Synod Assembly Awards info received. All posted on bulletin board.

~ Still looking for contractors for the access ramp to the sanctuary. We will post the need on our Facebook page.

~Reviewed proposed 2024 budget for Emanuel. Annual Meeting date is Sunday, January 28, with a potluck brunch following worship. One new council member needed for a three year term.

~December local benevolence is the Janzen House of Marquette.

~The November Financial Secretary & Treasurer’s reports were reviewed and found in order with no outstanding bills.

Birthdays Blessings

January 1—Mark Arnett

January 8-
Christie Johnson

January 9-Bettie Ahola

January 12-Angie Kremer

January 13-Judy Berglund

January 30-
Melody Tremble



Thank you to Jolene Kokko for sponsoring the January worship bulletins in memory of her Grandmother, Sylvia Wiseman.

Thank you for serving during worship!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
01/07	Christie Johnson	Richard Cooke
01/14	Betsy Koski	Jesse & Leah Kainulainen
01/21	Patti Bergdahl	Roger & Sarah Kimball
01/28	Jesse Kainulainen	Tom & Barb Bach



In case of inclement weather and our Sunday worship needs to be cancelled, our Facebook page will post it, an email will be sent to those online, Emanuel’s phone message will state it and WLUC/TV6 will post closures. If the schools are closed during the week, the church office probably will be closed. Please call Emanuel before traveling during the week if questionable road conditions (906)942-7245.

So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Matthew 6:34

Dear Sisters and Brothers, God's grace and peace be with you always.

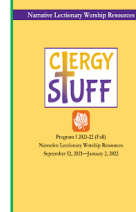
Out with the old and in with the new. That is what millions will be saying very soon. It is something that happens year in and year out on New Year's Eve. Seems like many are ready to throw away the happenings of the past year, the failures or the misfortune that may have happened hopeful, that the New Year will be much better. Recently I read of an old tradition called the peppermint pig. This pig figurine made of peppermint is some type of symbol of good health and prosperity. At the New Year meal the pig is placed in a sack then shattered so the guest may eat a piece of that pig ensuring their good fortunes for the future. Strange.

Many plans are made for what the New Year will bring. We plan budgets, vacations, lifestyle changes all for the sake of a brighter future. Our hope is that the future will be full of good things. That we will grow and prosper. That we will have good health and long life. That evil would disappear and we learn to live together peacefully. Our plans are filled with hope yet occasionally we learn "that the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry". This then leads us down the path of worry.

The focus verse from Matthew is a reminder for us not to worry ourselves over what the future might hold. There is little that can be done about past events and certainly the future is uncertain. We have however, within our grasp the present. With all its goodness and turmoil we live in the present and that is a good thing. You may ask why this is good, and I would point us to Jesus, the Savior given to us.



Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be **Sunday, January 28**, following our Sunday worship with a potluck brunch. If you are a committee chair person please have your yearly report to the office by Sunday, January 14 as Emanuel's 2023 Annual Report will be given to our members on January 21. One new council member is needed for a three year term. Talk with a nomination committee member (Betsy or Christie) if you are interested in serving on the council or have any questions. Thank you!



We greatly appreciate the help to sponsor our weekly bulletin costs of paper, ink and downloadable documents. Cost is \$20 a month and the sign-up is at the entrance to the sanctuary into the fellowship hall. Please note on the sign up sheet if you are sponsoring the monthly bulletins in memory or in honor of others and again thank you for supporting our worship ministry.



***Lifelong Faith Formation 2024 Winter Classes
Begin in January and February!***

In its fourth year, Lifelong Faith Formation is one way for people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, and beyond, to be church together. Join the conversation. Enjoy the fellowship and discover new ways to share the light of Christ with the world. All classes are held online via Zoom. Contact Deacon Lori Ward if you have questions at (615)519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org.

Visit www.nglsynod.org to register.

Christ in Our Home, (January-March) a devotional resource which encourages readers to live out their faith daily with readings, scriptures and prayer, is now available near the entrances of the sanctuary. Along with a new ***The Lutheran Message*** booklet with inspirational and uplifting articles and poems. If you would like them mailed to you, just let the office know. (906)942-7245



Thank you all that donated food items for the 20 Christmas food baskets, donated monetarily and the Thrivent Grant. We are collecting new or gently used children's snowpants and boots for the Gwinn Elementary Schools for children in need during January. We will collect them in the fellowship hall near the piano. Thank you for your continued support of our outreach opportunities.

Sarah Kimball

A big **thank you** all that helped with our Bake Sale/Basket Raffle/Holiday Raffle December 16. Thank you all that donated the 28 baskets filled with wonderful items, and for the Cub Cadet snow blower and Toro Cordless weedwacker generously donated by Bergdahl's! We raised \$2,192.95 going towards the indoor access ramp to the sanctuary!

We could not have done it without your support! THANK YOU!

Holiday Raffle Winners

Handmade Quilt (Farmhouse) made by Connie Ritter-Scott Martin

Quilt made by Iva Arnett –Sonny Robinson

Stained Glass Pieces by Donna Oliver-Iva Arnett

Nest Collage made by Sarah Kimball-Iva Arnett

Door Knob Basket made by Sandy Seppanen– Iva Arnett

Cedar Trinket Box made by Bob Sims-Sammy Bergdahl

Necklace by Lisa Ameen-Patti Bergdahl

Felted Birds made by Judy Berglund-Sammy Bergdahl

Amethyst & Pearl Necklace and Earrings by Christie Johnson-
Theresa Lauren

Fresh Holiday Wreath-Kris Hazeres

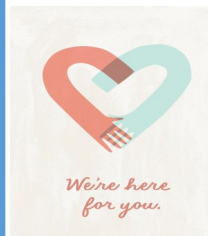
Painted Scene on Wood Burl by Karen Cade-Sammy Bergdahl

Framed Rabbit Print by John Heath-Carol Foress

We live in the Light of Christ this day and always with the knowledge that God's love is with us forever. Trust that in our Baptism we have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to face each day head on, managing the task at hand working toward peace for all humankind. We trust that we are never abandoned strengthened for whatever might happen. This allows us to live in freedom, freedom from worry with the knowledge that all will be well. Keep dreaming of peace and solidarity for all as we live the life God has given us.

Shalom,
Michael

January Scriptures	Reading	Psalm	Gospel
January 7	Genesis 29	Psalm 103: 1-5	Mark 1:1-20
January 14	Hosea 2:14-20	Psalm 103: 1-13, 22	Mark 2:1-22
January 21	Ezekiel 17: 22-24	Psalm 92: 1-4, 12-15	Mark 4:1-34
January 28	Romans 16: 25-27	Psalm 89: 1-4 19-26	Mark 5:1-20



Please let Michael or the church office know if you or a family member is hospitalized, ill, home-bound or in need of help. We want to be sure to be here for you, with support, prayers and visits. If you can't notify Emanuel, please ask a family member to do so. Michael: (231)824-6757 Emanuel (906)942-7245.



I PLANTED

Apollos WATERED

But God gave the GROWTH.

~1 Corinthians 3:6

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the Year of our Lord 2024!

In this new year, I announce our Synod themes for the next three years,

Seed Sowers:

2024: I Planted

2025: Apollos Watered

2026: God gave the Growth



Last year at Synod Assembly, Seed Sowers was the theme for our inaugural Seed Sowers Luncheon that thanked people who had made a planned gift (meaning that they remembered NGLS/ELCA in their will) or were considering doing so. In essence, they were a Seed Sower, "planting seeds for future ministry, seeds that they knew they would not see grow and bear fruit.

However, being a Seed Sower is not limited to those who have planned a legacy gift. After all, are we not all Seed Sowers? Do we not, all of us, plant seeds for future ministry, even as we enjoy the growth from seeds that were planted generations ago?

We plant seeds as we try and pass the faith on to the next generation. We want our children and grandchildren to be blessed by the community of faith in the same way we have been. We stretch our financial capacity to ensure sustainability for years to come. We build a reputation in our communities that we care, and we're ready to serve those in need. We raise up leaders for future generations by nurturing their gifts for ministry. We are every day, Seed Sowers.

At this time of great transformation and change in the Church, it is good to be reminded that the Church is about more than what we experience in the here and now. And there are many ways that a congregation can plant seeds for future ministry.

I think of the faithfulness of St. James in Marinette, Wi. Founded in 1918, this community of faith has been hard at work for the sake of Christ for 106 years This past autumn, the people of St. James discerned that their last worship service will be Sunday April 14, 2024.



While this decision is difficult for all who love St. James, it also witnesses to their faithfulness. As people who believe in a God who brings new life from death and light from darkness, the work of St. James has not been in vain. This community of faith has accomplished that for which it was created and has completed that for which it was purposed. God will bring new life and growth from the seeds that St. James will plant. In the weeks to come, the people of St. James will consider how best to use their assets to support the work of Christ through ministry partners. Their legacy will provide resources to further the purposes of God long after the doors of St. James are closed.

As we focus on Planting this year, we celebrate the history of each and every one of our Northern Great Lakes congregations and the foresight of founding mothers and fathers who by the grace of God, planted our churches. We give thanks for adults who noticed gifts for ministry and planted the idea of future pastoral leadership in young hearts and minds. And we look to see what seeds we can plant today that will bear fruit in a future church, that for now, we can only imagine.

*The church of Christ,
in every age beset by change, but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.*

~ELW#729, vs. 1

*Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan*