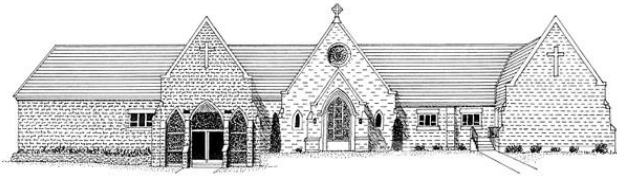


# THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Menominee, Michigan

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**FEBRUARY**

**2020**

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**Sunday, February 23rd, 11:00 a.m.**  
Emmanuel's Youth Gathering participants  
will be providing a spaghetti lunch  
with a free-will offering.  
Read inside for more information!

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday  
February 26, with services of  
Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes  
10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

While we have recently gone through a January thaw, I was among those out there prior to the warmer weather who was chipping ice away, trying to undo myself what Mother Nature had so kindly built up for us over the prior several weeks. A lot of that ice was compact and in the shadows where the sun wasn't getting it, making it immovable.

And as I was partaking of this glorious exercise of my seldom used muscles and often stressed temperament, I couldn't help but to remind myself that if I had treated these areas prior to the snow and the ice, and had taken the time to remove the snow before the colder weather set in, that I would not be in the position that I was in now. Instead of being indoors where it is warm and comfortable, I was layered up and waging what was turning into an unwinnable war.

But in those few moments of clarity between the tantrums and the hopelessness of my endeavor, it hit me that this often is a wonderful description of faith as well. Think about it. How often does it happen that when the storms of life blow in and cover us, it is at that point that we choose to try and dig out of the carnage that is all around us? We put off our faith and our relationship with God when the going's good simply because we've got better things to partake in right now. Our thought process is to deal with those things when we have to.

But, like our walks and driveways, wouldn't it be a whole lot better to treat our areas of faith ahead of time also? Isn't it wiser to put a little salt down before the ice comes and to shovel out the snow before it freezes and there's not much to do but either wait it out or chip at it little by little? Isn't it wiser to engage in an active prayer and devotion life, to worship and to be in community with your church, and to live in the promises of our baptism when the going's good, especially when the going's good, instead of waiting

until there is nowhere else to turn and faith becomes our last response instead of our first?

Four weeks from now we will enter into the season of Lent, a time in which many people choose to make temporary changes in their lives, often referring to these changes as sacrifices. But what makes it so important to initiate those changes at a predetermined time, like Lent? If these changes are so important, why not make them now and make them permanent? While God is undoubtedly ecstatic when we choose to enter into a deeper commitment during this sacred season of Lent, God would be even more delighted if we'd make the choice to do it right now instead, and then continue to build upon it. And so will we.

May God's blessings be upon you and keep you safe during the coming months and may you be prepared ahead of time to be reminded that when the storms of life come upon you that you know that you will be protected from them. Do whatever you can to treat your faith before the storms arrive. For faith, my friends, is not only a crutch that we lean on during our times of trial, but that it is during our times of joy that faith speaks to us, carries us, and constantly reminds us that God is with us and that it is God who makes all good things even better....even the ice and snow!!

Thanks be to God!

In Christ,

*Pastor Mark*

### **New Member Class and Welcome**

Pastor Mark will be offering a class for those who are interested in membership at Emmanuel on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. This time together will last approximately 1 ½ hours and is an opportunity for interested persons to ask questions about Emmanuel and to learn what it means to be a church member in the ELCA. We will then welcome our newest members during worship on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you have any questions or are interested, please contact the church office at (906) 863-3431.

## *Church Council*

Ronda Pedersen	President
Kathy Bero	Vice President
Terrie Porras	Secretary
Dave Anderson	Treasurer
Kylie Chevalier	Youth Council Member

Stacey Hansen  
Boni Nerat-Heckel  
Jeff Hines  
Bill Kuhnlein  
Jeremy Sallgren  
Bill Taccolini  
Matt Vanni  
Jim Zobel

The 2019 Annual Report was presented to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2020 after the 9:00 a.m. worship service in the fellowship room. Thank you to the fellowship committee for preparing a delicious brunch. Eighty-five active voting members were in attendance to achieve the quorum requirement. The 2020 Budget was approved, various reports were reviewed, and three new council members and one youth representative were elected to serve on the council. We welcome Jeff Hines, Bill Kuhnlein, Jeremy Sallgren and Kylie Chevalier (youth rep) to the council. Thank you for your dedication, commitment and faithfulness to Emmanuel!

## **EMMANUEL BUDGET NEWS**

**As of December 31, 2019**

<b>*Your Contributions to the General Fund</b>	<b>\$261,988.00</b>
<b>*Your Approved Budget Amount</b>	<b>\$266,675.00</b>



## Upcoming Classes

February 16<sup>th</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, March 15<sup>th</sup>  
from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.



**First**

**Communion**

Parents of 5<sup>th</sup> graders, First Communion training will start March 15<sup>th</sup> and run for four weeks. The symbolic Seder Meal and First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. A letter and registration form with more information will be mailed prior to the start of classes. Any 6<sup>th</sup> grader who has not yet taken communion training is also welcomed to join us. The training classes will be held during the same time as Sunday school classes.

## **PreK—6th Grade You are invited to Movie & Munchies!**



Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-5:00 pm

Please join us for a kid-friendly



movie along with snacks and treats in the church fellowship hall. Weather permitting, we may also go out on to the church grounds for snowman building, so dress appropriately.

Hosted by: The Little Lutheran's Youth Committee

## **Children's Library**



## **Open House Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 11:00 a.m.**

Join us for an open house to celebrate our new children's library located at the end of the Sunday school classrooms.

Books, videos, DVD's, and family resource materials will be available to check out. Learn more about our new library at our open house!

# 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering

Parent and Student Meeting

Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> 11:00 a.m. in  
the sanctuary



Every three years, 30,000 high school youth from across the ELCA gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, engaging worship, service work, and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

Emmanuel youth who are currently in 8<sup>th</sup> grade through 11<sup>th</sup> are eligible to attend this week in the summer of 2021 of amazing faith building experiences. Those youth who have already signed up and any youth who are interested are asked to please attend the February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. There is much to start planning for!



Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
the congregation is  
invited to join us  
immediately following  
the 10:00 a.m. worship

service for a spaghetti dinner and bucket drawings. The dinner will be a free-will offering and tickets will be sold for the gift basket drawings. Along with a delicious dinner and fun drawings, there will be a short presentation on the ELCA Youth Gathering. Our youth who will be participating in this event and their parents are working hard on preparing a fun-filled dinner event. We hope you can attend!



**FORTUNE LAKE**  
*A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI*

## **Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp**

A sure sign that summer is coming is that it's time to register for camp!! Emmanuel annually supports the mission of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls, Michigan and now we want to further support our campers who go. For all persons who would like to attend Fortune Lake camp, Emmanuel will pay ½ of the total registration cost!! To receive this scholarship, though, it is necessary that you register through the church office. Deadlines for discounts and special offers are coming up, so if you are interested in going or if you have any questions about attending Fortune Lake Camp, check out the information on the narthex kiosk or contact the church office at 863-3431.

We inadvertently listed the 2018 Confirmands instead of the 2019 Confirmands in the Annual Report booklet.

The actual 2019 Confirmands were:

***Emma Aichner, Beau Anders, Brennan Barrette  
Raquel Botbyl, Marisa Camps, Gavin Hansen  
Avery Johnson, Lindsay Johnson, Rachel Magrane,  
Matthew Mellinger, Ava Slawinski, Kaden Starzysnski,  
Olivia Stewart***

# ADULT MINISTRIES

## WEDNESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

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

## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

*The Sarah Circle* will meet on Tuesday, February 11, at 1:00 p.m., Barb Anderson will be the hostess

*Seeking Enlightenment Group* will be meeting on Thursday, February 20, at 6:30pm. It is a time of sharing and encouraging each other on our Christian journey, contact Robin Gustafson at 906-290-1003 for location details.

*Mom Squad* meets twice a month on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the church Friendship Room. You are invited to join a community of moms who can offer encouragement, support, and friendship in our adventures as moms! Our group is led by Karie Anderson.

## CARE & SHARE ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

A support group for caregivers of loved ones with Alzheimer's and other dementias is being offered at Emmanuel Wednesdays from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the church conference room at the end of the office hallway. Meetings are casual, so you are free to come and go throughout the meeting time.

Our group offers an opportunity for caregivers to share experiences, discuss concerns, and learn about available resources in our area. June Ehlers, Dementia Friendly Purple Angel Program Trainer, will facilitate each meeting. You may contact June for more information at 715-582-3589 or 715-938-3589 or by email at [jmeblers@new.rr.com](mailto:jmeblers@new.rr.com).



## Yoga Classes

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

Tuesday's

5:20-6:00 p.m.

In the church  
fellowship hall



Certified yoga  
instructor, Sally

VanEyck will teach and lead us for 40 minutes in this wonderful exercise called yoga! Sally's classes are always casual with plenty of fun and laughter. All abilities are welcome. Please dress comfortably, no shoes or socks, bring a yoga mat and water. Classes are \$5.00 per session. Please arrive a few minutes early so we may begin class promptly at 5:20 p.m.

## OUR EMMANUEL FAMILY

### Claimed in the waters of baptism:

**Camelly Penny Lorraine Gleisner**, daughter of Scott Gleisner. Camelly's sponsors are Brent Gezella and Josephine Gezella.

**Colin Robert Gleisner**, son of Scott Gleisner. Colin's sponsors are Pastor Kurt Bockoven and Benjamin Schernick.

### Called to their promised eternal home:

**Faye Techmeier** passed away January 20 at home. Faye's funeral was held at Thielen Funeral Home on January 24.

**Randy Tharp** passed away January 20. Randy's funeral was held at Cadieu Funeral home on February 1.

*May all who mourn be filled with the hope of the promise to eternal life that has been made alive in our baptisms.*



## AARP REAL POSSIBILITIES AT EMMANUEL

Emmanuel Lutheran will again be an AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program Site. The AARP Tax-Aide Program works with Seniors, Families, and Individuals to complete their Individual Tax Returns. **There is no cost for this service.** The Tax-Aide Group members accurately complete tax returns for as many Individuals as they can, but there are Individual Returns that are Out Of Scope for the skills of the group members and the rules for the Tax-Aide Program set by the IRS and Tax-Aide Foundation. The program starts February 6th at Emmanuel and will be held on Tuesday and Thursdays in the morning. You may call the church office to make an appointment.



### Worship Services available on our website.

For those of you who do not have a Facebook account, you are now able to view our worship services. Each Monday, the previous Sunday's worship service will be made available on our website. There is a separate tab on the top of the home screen that states "Worship Videos". You may visit our website at [www.e-mmanuel.com](http://www.e-mmanuel.com) or scan this QR code with your smart phone. Live streaming of our worship services on Facebook will continue!



**The church office was recently gifted three (3) brand new computers with upgraded Windows 10 packages!  
The generous donor wishes to remain anonymous.  
We are blessed indeed!**

## **EMBRACE GENEROSITY!**

*“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” - Proverbs 11:25*

### **Steward your life: Cultivate a heart of love**

*Jesus taught, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven.” –Matthew 5:43-45a*

Red hearts, flowers and chocolates remind us that February is the uncontested month of love. It’s excellent (and easy) to love those close to us, but Jesus tells us to go wider, deeper, riskier – to love even our enemies. In so doing, Jesus says, we become children of God. This challenges us to embrace love as the key discipline and develop a heart so full of love that it flows to even our enemies. Isn’t that how we’re supposed to live as disciples? It’s just good stewardship of our lives.

For this “month of love,” practice loving your enemies.

The effort is especially timely in our season of discord, when our loudest voices encourage us – through name-calling, denigrating, lying, smearing – to hate those with whom we disagree. Even calling them “enemies” is too much (they’re really neighbors!). Loving our “enemies” doesn’t mean we agree with them or tolerate bad behavior. It means respecting, listening, discussing, refraining from anger and revenge. Here are some ideas for loving our enemies:

- Jesus gives us the first step: Pray! For them and for you!
- Stop seeing them as enemies. They’re our neighbors whom God loves.
- Resist hate, the very thing our culture encourages.
- Treat everyone as you would want to be treated.
- Lastly, keep praying.

By embracing love as a spiritual discipline, we cultivate a heart of love that opens our lives to the transformation Jesus dearly desires for us -- to be children of God. Now that’s good stewardship.

*--Rob Blezard Copyright © 2020, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission.*

# **SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EMMANUEL**

## **Worship at 8:00 & 10:00am**

Nursery care provided at 10:00am  
Sunday School at 10:00am

### **CONTACT US:**

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Council President, Rhonda Pedersen

Email: [elcpresident@e-mmanuel.com](mailto:elcpresident@e-mmanuel.com)

or

Visit us on the Web at [www.e-mmanuel.com](http://www.e-mmanuel.com)



*Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at*  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church Menominee Michigan ELCA

### **STAFF:**

*Pastor*

The Rev. Mark Laatsch - Cell Phone: 906-424-0003

Email: [pastor2901@e-mmanuel.com](mailto:pastor2901@e-mmanuel.com)

*Director of Youth & Family Ministry*

Mrs. Patti Treptow

*Church Secretary*

Mrs. Judy Raygo

*Custodian- inside Mrs. Carol Parrish*

*Custodian – outside Mr. Lee Parrish*



We are a congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America