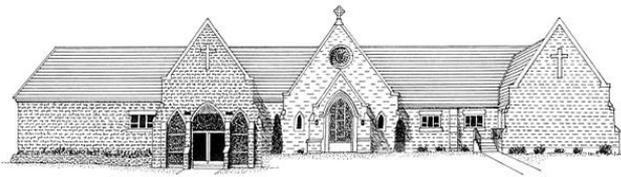


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan

OCTOBER

2021



REFORMATION SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 31ST

FROM THE PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we now settle into our fall programming season, with a stunning Rally Day and a renewed God's Work Our Hands project completed, and Sunday School in full swing, our attention in the church turns to the continuation and further development of Emmanuel's ministries. Certainly, everything that we do and believe in is grounded in scripture and prayer. If what we're doing does not give glory to God and reflect the love of Jesus Christ, is it truly a work of the church?

And once we have prayed and meditated on our work, the question is then asked, "Who are the workers and what gifts do they bring to this work?" And that is where our stewardship practices come into play. So often when that word, "stewardship" is mentioned, we think about the financial aspect of the church. Yes, the financials are so very important for the ministry that we do here as well as what is done outside these four walls, so we do seek the monetary gifts and offerings that will further the work of this church.

But it is so important to remember that stewardship entails the unique gifts that we offer as well. It's easy to fall into the trap of believing that what I have to offer is of no value and cannot benefit the church in any way; but if you believe in this way you couldn't be any further from the truth because sometimes the most effective use of our gifts come in the unique ways in which we use them.

Such a person is the man who always seemed to bring home a boatload of fish. It was uncanny, and people wondered how he could be so successful. The game warden heard of this man's great success and asked to go with him. The two men started early one morning and went across the lake to a secluded area. The warden noticed that the fisherman did not have a fishing pole, just a net and a rusty old tackle box. When they got to the appointed place, the fisherman opened the box and pulled out a stick of dynamite, lit it, and tossed it into the water.

It blew up and the fish rose to the surface. The fisherman began dipping his net into the water and putting the fish in the boat. The warden then reached back and revealed from his hip pocket the credentials of a game warden! Calmly the fisherman opened the tackle box again, got out another stick of dynamite, lit the fuse and handed it to the game warden. Then, as the fuse burned down, the fisherman asked, “Are you going to fish or are you just going to sit there?”

Can the same be asked of us? As Emmanuel’s annual stewardship drive kicks off this month, please take the time to prayerfully fill out your pledge card and, just as importantly, determine what other gifts you can bring to our wider ministry. Much has changed in the past year-and-a-half and it is a very exciting time to begin anew. Being a fisher of people for Christ is never a defined role but is a role in which all can serve and do so in their own unique fashion.

May Christ’s peace and presence be upon you as you ponder and discern your methods of fishing, and praise be to God for empowering you with the tools to do so!

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

EMMANUEL BUDGET NEWS

As of August 31, 2021

*Your Contributions to the General Fund	\$141,938.88
*Your Approved Budget Amount	\$164,006.67

Contribution statements will be mailed out soon, marking the completion of the 3rd Quarter. Thank you to all who have contributed to the ongoing ministry of the church. We’ve been incredibly blessed to be able to do God’s work because of your generosity, and look forward to seeing what God holds in store for us during the final 3 months of 2021 and beyond.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH FALL 2021
STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

“WE’VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH”

. . . for we walk by faith, not by sight . . . 2 Corinthians 5:7

Dear Emmanuel Friends in Christ,

Over the past 18 months, we have travelled through the unprecedented experience of a global pandemic. Our lives have been altered in dramatic and unexpected ways. Within weeks, our Sunday worship services became an online digital experience as we were no longer able to gather in person. At the same time, the clergy and parishioners at Emmanuel Lutheran Church moved to assure us that vital ministries and the work of our church continued. Now, a year later, we find ourselves embarking on a different journey, as we move into the process of “regathering.”

This year’s stewardship campaign theme, “We’ve Come This Far by Faith,” asks us to reflect on our journey together over the past year of pandemic and to cast our gaze forward to God’s preferred future for our churches. It also reminds us that our financial support, in the form of a pledge to the operating budget of Emmanuel, is an essential component of our ability to carry out the work of the church.

As we turn our focus to the future, we do so secure in the assurance of God’s abiding and steadfast love. As we regather, we delight in the opportunities to be with our families, friends, and fellow parishioners. We are able to worship God with singing and to engage in the important work of rebuilding our communities. There is much to celebrate and there is much to do. Your past financial support has been crucial to the work of Emmanuel. Now, as we begin this year’s campaign, we hope we can count on you again. Next week you will receive the 2021 Fall Stewardship Campaign Kick-off letter. Please prayerfully consider your annual pledge so that we may, in faith, continue walking toward God’s preferred future.

Thank you,
Emmanuel’s Stewardship Committee

Northern Great Lakes Synod News

If you are curious as to what might be happening around the Synod, check out the Northern Great Lakes Website at www.nglsynod.org.

To view Bishop Finegan's and Assistant to the Bishop Duehring's October/November newsletter articles, they can be found at www.nglsynod/newsletters-articles.

As well, all church members of the Northern Great Lakes Synod are invited to read the synod's monthly newsletter, Northern Light. This can be downloaded from the homepage of the synod website, or, if you'd like it emailed to you, please contact the synod office by phone at (906) 228-2300 or by email at ngls@nglsynod.org and request to be put on the mailing list.

Lastly, Registration is now open for the fall 2021 schedule of Lifelong Faith Formation, a program of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. The classes provide fun and interesting opportunities for people from across the synod to connect with each other online, via Zoom, during these uncertain times. The fall schedule includes these offerings beginning in September and October:

- **Biblemania! Reading Through Some of the 66 Books of Food for the Soul**
- **Ezekiel Bible Study**
- **Intermediate Biblical Greek**
- **Walking Together: Companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania**
- **An Introduction to Family Systems Thinking**
- **Book Study of *Friedman's Fables* (by Rabbi Ed Friedman): "Metaphors for Family Systems Thinking"**
- **Holy Communion Post-Pandemic: What, When, Where, Who, and Why**

For more information, visit www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation or contact Deacon Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org.



Youth and Family Ministry

From the Director: Patti Treptow

Fall is here and it almost feels like we are getting back to normal. With mindful diligence in keeping everyone as safe as possible from Covid, our church programs are starting back up and we are excited to once again participate in church activities.

From learning opportunities of Sunday school, confirmation, and Bible studies that deepen our faith, to fun fellowship events such as the Rally Day picnic, and coffee hours that build friendships, to the God's Work, Our Hands project and other service opportunities that allow us to share the love of Christ with others, to worship enrichments such as choir and special musical presentations that help us praise our Lord, fall definitely is a time when we come together and re-connect. Thank you to everyone for your patience during the difficult times of the pandemic and to those who help to make the work of the church fun and meaningful!

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



Sunday School

Our monthly Bible Story Sunday events start October 3rd. As part of our Sunday school program, every 1st Sunday of the month all of the Sunday school children will gather in the fellowship hall. Our children will participate in devotions, watch a Bible story video, make a craft, and enjoy a snack. Parents may pick up their children in the fellowship hall at the end of worship. Bible Story Sunday is held the first Sunday of each month.....don't miss out on the fun!

Reminder to parents....please complete a Sunday School registration form that is in the church narthex or available to download from our church website. This information helps to keep our records and lines of communication with parents updated. Thank you!

3rd / 4th Grade Bible Presentation



Sunday, October 10th during the 10:00 a.m. worship service, our 3rd and 4th grade students will receive their gift Bibles from the congregation. Parents, please bring your child with you to worship that Sunday. Following the presentation, children will go to their classroom.



The Rite of Confirmation



Our students who have completed Confirmation instruction will affirm their baptism and be confirmed on **Reformation Sunday, October 31st**, at 1:00 p.m. A letter regarding this important event is being mailed to our confirmand parents the first week of October. Please contact the church office if you did not receive this letter or if you have questions.

Parents and confirmands mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 17th at 11:00 a.m.** where confirmands will be sized for their robes and do a run-through of the confirmation service.

Confirmation Classes

7th and 8th grade Confirmation Classes will be starting this month! Mark your calendars for these important dates:

Class orientation - Sunday, October 10th at 11:00 a.m. for parents and students. Parents will have a very important role this year in leading discussion groups at each class. This orientation will lay out confirmation class dates, times, objectives, and expectations.

Classes start - Sunday, October 24th at 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Letters have been mailed out regarding our confirmation program along with a registration form. If you have not received a letter/form, please contact Patti Treptow at church.





Ignite Afterschool Program

7th-12th grade youth

Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Ignite is a place for youth to hang out, engage in fun activities and learn new things. Activities and programs will be determined by your interests! Please complete the registration/parent permission form and an interest questionnaire that is available in the church office.

Join Us For



October 31st

Emmanuel's "Trunk or Treat" is back!

It will be held on Sunday, October 31st,

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the 13th street parking lot.

Neighborhood children and congregation children are welcome to trick or treat in our parking lot. This has become a very popular and fun event for our community children.

We are inviting all interested congregation

members to join in the fun by hosting a "trunk". All you need do is decorate your trunk, wear a costume if you like, and provide some candy. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you are interested in participating. We hope you can join us in this safe and fun event for our children. If you are unable to host a trunk but would like to participate by donating a bag of candy that will be distributed to the children, please drop it off in the church office by October 31st. Thank you!

Holy Grounds Coffee Hour



Sundays 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall

Please join us in the fellowship hall on Sunday, October 17th at 9:00 a.m. to enjoy a cup of coffee, treats, and listen to the talents of John Wills. This is also a great chance to see the

recently renovated kitchen and fellowship hall. With our stewardship drive for the year being kicked-off that Sunday, committee sign-ups will also be available for you in the fellowship hall.

ADULT EDUCATION AT EMMANUEL

Have you ever doubted your salvation? Or sought to understand salvation and the Holy Spirit more?

One chapter in the Bible offers answers to our questions about deep, biblical truths. In *Romans VIII: The Greatest Chapter in the Bible*, Dr. David Jeremiah takes you verse-by-verse through Romans 8, explaining the truths contained in this incredible chapter. Everything you need to know about the Christian walk, from the assurance of your salvation to the work of the Holy Spirit, can be found in this powerful text – encouraging and enabling you to live your life the way God intended it to be lived.

Robin Gustafson will be leading this adult education opportunity each week, beginning on Monday, October 11th at 6:30 in the Friendship Room at church. The topics of this class include

- A Revolutionary Freedom
- The Spirit and the Flesh
- The Ministry of the Holy Spirit
- Groaning and Glory
- The Greatest Promise in the Bible
- Salvation's Golden Chain
- Five Unshakeable Promises
- More Than Conquerors

We hope that you can make this time to renew and strengthen your faith alongside other members and saints. If you have any questions, please contact the church at 863-3431.



Emmanuel is helping the Salvation Army with their Coats for Kids campaign. The Salvation Army is accepting **new** and gently used **winter** coats, snow pants, boots, mittens, hats, and warm blankets

which will be given to needy families in the counties of Marinette and Menominee. The collection will run through the month of October. We will have a box in the narthex for this purpose. Let's see if we can fill it!

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 715-938-3589 or by email at jmehlers@new.rr.com.

Yoga at Emmanuel

Tuesday's, 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Join us for this wonderful exercise taught by Sally VanEyck, certified yoga instructor. All abilities are welcome - new to yoga or experienced, this class is for you! Dress comfortably, bring a yoga mat, water, no shoes or socks. Classes are \$5.00 per session.

Seeking Enlightenment Group

Thursday's 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a time of sharing and encouraging each other on our Christian journey, contact Robin Gustafson at 906-290-1003 for location details.



GIVE THANKS
TO THE LORD
for He is good.

PSALM 106:1

HOLLEYGERTH.COM

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EMMANUEL

Online Worship 8:00 a.m.

Livestreamed on our Facebook page

CONTACT US:

Phone: (906) 863-3431 Fax: 906-863-4193

Email: mail@e-mmanuel.com

Council President, Rhonda Pedersen

Email: elcpresident@e-mmanuel.com

or

Visit us on the Web at 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

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