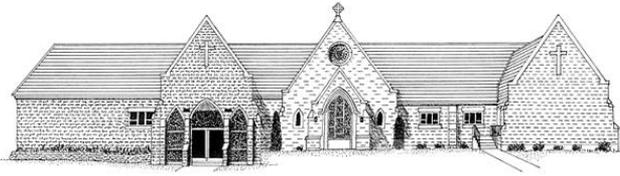


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan

JANUARY

2022



Emmanuel Annual Meeting will take place on
Sunday, January 30th, 2022.
Please see inside for more information.

FROM THE PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

It is 2022. After the abnormally disjointed year that 2020 was, 2021 brought back to us some semblance of normal, though we undoubtedly still do have a way to go, so forward we go.

So, what is our outlook for the new year? Well, I am, at least in my own mind, a rather optimistic person, and I like to approach life in such a way; but as we put away the tree and take down the Christmas decorations, I am left with this nagging refrain which I heard from several people during the last few weeks, a sentiment which I've shared; and that is that it was really hard to get into the Christmas season this year.

Now, the fascinating and frustrating thing about this is that none of us who I shared this conversation with can really pinpoint what it was. Maybe it was the weather, which at times bounced from warm to cold to snowy to sunshine to foggy to everything in between faster than we could adapt ourselves for it. Maybe it was the consumer aspect of Christmas, the supply chain shortages forcing people to accommodate or change their plans. For myself, at least, the raging effects of the pandemic definitely continue to play a part. Presiding over several funerals of persons struck down by COVID in the weeks leading up to Christmas undoubtedly dampened any kind of festive desire. In many respects, the end of 2021 brought to many of God's people a heaviness that most of us just don't typically associate with the holiday season.

Which brings us to the new year. Traditionally, the beginning of a new year often signifies people making vows: vowing to shed excess physical weight usually leads the way; but this year, while that is undoubtedly something that I do need to do, myself, among many others, are looking beyond the physical heaviness, but are looking to dissipate the spiritual and mental heaviness which we inherited during a time when we should have been, and normally would have been, participating in the joyful activities of Christmas.

And I'm grateful that the church is the place where we can begin to unburden ourselves and lighten our load for the new year. Another new year "tradition" (for lack of a better term!) which the church experiences is a drop-off in attendance and participation after Christmas. Pre-Covid, there is no rhyme or reason that I can make of this, except, possibly, that for some, Christmas worship somehow implies that the year is over, as is any necessary reason to go to church.

And that's too bad, because the church in worship offers the opportunity to confess of our sins and receive forgiveness of them, lightening the burdens which we carry. The church in worship offers us the opportunity to sing our praises to God, reminding us of all that God does for us, in turn reminding us that we don't have to do it ourselves. The church in worship offers us the opportunity to hear the Word proclaimed, giving us guidance to avoid those bogs which we get mired in, making it harder for us to move forward into God's future which awaits us. The church in worship offers us the opportunity to receive Holy Communion, the very body and blood of Jesus Christ, he who has removed all doubt of the weight of the finality of death in his resurrection.

As pastor, I have a responsibility to lead worship, but my new year resolution is to engage deeper in my participation of worship, for it is there that I leave the weight of world at the altar and depart from worship as a lighter, freer saint, molded in Christ to do Christ's work in the world. It truly is a joyful undertaking. May we all experience it in 2022.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

On behalf of *Amy, Jacob, Emma, Isaac, and myself*, thank you to everyone who took the time to so incredibly generously reach out to us with your cards, gifts, thoughts and well-wishes during the Christmas season. Every one of your efforts were received with full and joyful hearts. -- Pastor Mark

EMMANUEL BUDGET NEWS

As of November 30, 2021

*Your Contributions to the General Fund	\$202,020.60
*Your Approved Budget Amount	\$210,866.48

Annual Meeting

Emmanuel Lutheran Church will hold its Annual Meeting, in-person, on Sunday, January 30th. On that day, there will be an abbreviated single worship service at 9:00 a.m., which will lead directly into the annual meeting, which will begin at approximately 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary. Sunday School that day will be a special extended movie day, which will last through the conclusion of the meeting. Please plan on being in attendance on that day as we affirm the work of the church in 2021 and bless the work that will transpire in 2022. At the conclusion of the meeting, approximately 10:30 a.m., everyone is welcome to a special celebratory fellowship, where we give thanks. The Annual Meeting booklet will be available for your perusal the Sunday prior, January 23rd. Please contact the church if you have any questions.



Sunday School

Classes resume January 9th.
Children's sermons also resume!
Please bring your child/children to
worship - they will be dismissed to
classes following the children's
sermon.



January 30th 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Because of the Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday school and worship is being moved to 9:00 a.m. with the annual meeting to immediately follow. During this time, our Little Lutherans Youth Committee will be hosting a pajama party in the Sunday school Prek/kindergarten classroom for all of our Sunday school children. Wear your favorite pj's and bring a blanket and a pillow. We will enjoy snacks and a movie! On this Sunday, we will not have a children's sermon so your child may go directly to the party downstairs.



Upcoming Classes

January 9th and 23rd
11:00 am - 12:30 pm



Emmanuel's High School Youth

GLOW Youth Group
Wednesday, January 5th
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Join us for a night of faith and fun.
Bring a friend!



Ignite Afterschool Program at Emmanuel

7th - 12th grade youth
Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00 p.m.



Ignite's recent project was sled making. Led by Aaron Rod, the kids put their engineering skills to the test building these sleds. We are hoping to try them out soon!

Ignite is a place for youth to hang out, engage in fun activities and learn new things. Please join us - **all of our community's youth are invited.** Activities and programs are determined by your interests!





Kathleen Gayon passed away December 7. Kathleen's memorial service was held at Emmanuel on December 14. Our sympathy to her children Lynn (David) Zorn, Perry Gayon and Peter (Bridget) Gayon and their families.

Barbara Anderson passed away December 16. Barbara's funeral was held at Emmanuel on December 21. Our sympathy to her husband, Axel, and children, Steven (Misuk) Anderson, Heidi (Mike) Oczus, and Karen (Jeff) Hines and their families.



Washed in the waters of Holy Baptism

Elliott Allen Baublitz son of Frank & Kassie Baublitz, was baptized on December 5. Elliott's sponsors were Katie Jensen and James Evans

College Graduates

Alex Coleman, daughter of Kim & Josh Schroeder graduated from UNLV (University of Las Vegas, Nevada) on December 14, 2021, school of Liberal Arts with a major in Political Science and a minor in history. She plans to go to law school.

Amber Raygo, daughter of Tony Raygo and Andrea Raygo graduated from University of Oshkosh on December 15, 2021. Amber graduates with a bachelor's degree in public relations and certificates in marketing and digital marketing. She received the Chancellor's Award and Titan LeadHERship Award and was president of the National Society of Leadership and Success. She is now the executive assistant to the director of The Grand Oshkosh.

Adult Bible Study

Resumes Monday, January 10, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

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 leads this adult education opportunity each Monday evening at 6:30 in the Friendship Room at church.

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 narthex. 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

The third Thursday of the month, at 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.



Emmanuel's Outreach Projects

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Christmas Outreach projects. Those who rang bells for Salvation Army, baked cookies for the bake sale, those who purchased cookies from the bake sale, those who provided Christmas gifts for our Tree of Love, and those who donated to our food drive and helped deliver everything to where it needed to be - please know that you helped to bring joy and love to those less fortunate in our community. God bless you for doing God's work and showing His love to those less fortunate.



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 January 2022 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.

Northern Great Lakes Lifelong Faith Formation

Sign up by January 7 for the Synod's 2022 Lifelong Faith Formation Classes nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation

The 2022 winter schedule is:

- **Introduction to Biblical Hebrew - 8 Sunday evening sessions**
- **The Samuel Series: Prayer and the Spiritual Life - 7 Monday morning sessions**
- **The Big Picture Bible Discussion - 4 Tuesday evening sessions**
- **The Book of Ezekiel, Part II - 10 Wednesday evening sessions**
- **Anishinaabe Culture - up to 3 Thursday evening sessions**
- **Dialogue with the Islamic Resource Group - 2 sessions on a Thursday and Friday evening**

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

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EMMANUEL

Online Worship 8:00 a.m.

Livestreamed on our Facebook page

CONTACT US:

Phone: (906) 863-3431

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