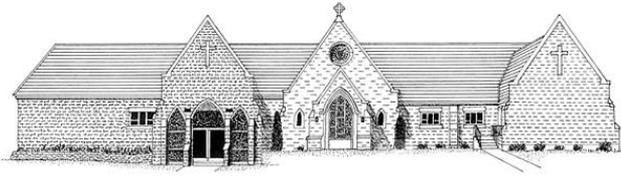


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan

FEBRUARY

2022



FROM THE PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The radio station which I have been frequenting in recent months is a station which plays hits from the 1980's, otherwise known as the songs of my youth. One of the songs which has become a regular in their rotation during that time is a catchy little ditty titled "I Wanna Go Back" by the late Eddie Money. The refrain to the song goes like this:

*I want to go back
And do it all over again
But I can't go back I know
I want to go back
'Cause I'm feeling so much older
But I can't go back I know*

It's a song about coming to terms with your past because you can't change your past; and so, it's imperative that you make the most of your life moving forward. I may be the only person who appreciates the irony that a radio station which only plays songs that were released 40 years ago regularly plays a song about not getting stuck in the past, but I digress.....

Now, I have never been what you might call an Eddie Money fan, but the reason why this song sticks to me so much is that it's a great prompt for us as we have now concluded our annual meeting. On Sunday, January 30th, we met as a congregation and celebrated and gave thanks for the work and life of the church of the year of our Lord, 2021; but this meeting also is our opportunity to turn the page to 2022 and to not only be open to, but cling to where God is calling us in 2022. Yes, we can lament the lower church attendance by remembering when the church was full for 3 services every Sunday, the lower Sunday School attendance by recalling having to have the Sunday School Christmas program at Blesch to accommodate all of the kids, or the drop off in the number of baptisms and weddings that take place in the church.

It's easy to even reminisce when these events were a more routine part of the life of the church instead of being more isolated moments. As a pastor I can't help but experience this personally as well, wondering and second-guessing my own pastoral and leadership choices and methods. We can reminisce and we can wonder. When it's all said and done, though, we can't go back and do it all over.

But what we can do is embrace where the church is now and who God is calling us to be in this very moment, as well as the moments and days which are before us, and it starts with wherever you are and whoever you are with right this moment. This moment in time will never happen again and those of us who live in it have an opportunity, as well as responsibility, to fill this moment with God's love.

On the first Sunday in February, our worship will center around Jesus' healing stories from St. John. While it's easy to receive these stories simply as stories about Jesus' healing people who were in need of being healed, what we can't ignore is that these are also moments where Jesus responds to the immediate needs that these persons are experiencing.

Now, maybe we can't heal people like Jesus, but we sure can be responsive just like he was. When we do answer the call to be responsive to God's people, we can then live with the assurance that we didn't leave anything on the table: no regrets, no second-guessing ourselves, no missed opportunities that we may replay over in our minds after the fact, with Eddie Money's lyrics ringing in our minds, "I want to go back and do it all over, but I can't go back I know."

And so, as we focus our eyes now in front of us to where God is leading the church in this coming year, and beyond, I'm reminded of another song in this same radio station's rotation by the incredibly talented Steve Winwood, titled, "When You See a Chance." The first two lines of the first verse go like this:

*Stand up in a clear blue morning
Until you see what can be*

It's all about looking to, as well as looking for, what is before you. With that in mind, my invitation for you all is to be present to Christ and keep your hearts and minds open to where and who Christ is calling you to serve. There is no doubt that you may be led to new and scary places. But, if Christ wants you there, why resist? Instead, when you see a chance, take it!

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

EMMANUEL BUDGET NEWS
As of December 31, 2021

*Your Contributions to the General Fund	\$233,861.00
*Your Approved Budget Amount	\$246,325.00

2022 Lent

Wednesday, March 2nd, is Ash Wednesday, and is our entrance into the season of Lent. We will worship at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm on that day, which will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Due to the continuing high numbers related to the coronavirus, it has been decided though that Emmanuel and Bethel will not have shared Lent midweek services this year which would begin the following Wednesday, March 9th. I am currently putting together an alternative plan and will have more information as to what Emmanuel's midweek Lent services during Lent will entail in the March Messenger.

2022 Church Council

Matt Vanni	President
Linda Davis	Vice President
Terrie Porras	Secretary
Debbie Villas	Treasurer
Kaden Starzyski	Youth Council Member

Jim Briar	Stacey Hansen
Jeff Hines	Betty Kohrt
Chris Nelson	Jeremy Sallgren
Gail Sieglaff	Cindy Smith
Bill Taccolini	

The 2021 Annual Report was presented to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 30, 2022 after the 9:00 a.m. worship service. We had a quorum of eighty-five active voting members to achieve the requirement. The 2022 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 Chris Nelson, Gail Sieglaff, Cindy Smith and Kaden Starzyski (youth rep) to the council. Thank you for your dedication, commitment and faithfulness to Emmanuel, as well as your persistence to get this work done during this difficult time!

College Graduate

Amanda Peterson, granddaughter of Keith & Pam Champagne, graduated from University of Oshkosh on December 15. Amanda graduates with honors with an RN Bachelor of Science and Nursing degree. Amanda is working at a nursing home in Appleton.

Our sympathy

To ***David Johnson*** whose wife Janet was called to her eternal home on January 3rd. May David and all who mourn Janet's death be filled with the promise and hope of resurrection to new life.



A new addition to our monthly newsletter is **“Faith at Home”**. Each month, I will share a fun and meaningful activity that you can use in building faith at home. If you have faith building activities that you use in your family that we can share with our church families, please let me know! - *Patti Treptow*

February’s activity is **“Creating a Love Jar”**. What is more wonderful on Valentine’s Day than to share your love. This activity is a fantastic way to encourage your family to talk about what they love about each other and to keep everyone’s heart full of love! Here is what you need.....find a coffee can or canning jar with a lid, some fun stickers, ribbons, sequins, etc. to decorate your love jar. Then give each family member a different color or different patterned paper cut into strips. Family members will write down notes, quotes, and special affirmations for each family member. Place the Love Jar in a special place and fill it up as much as you can. Then on Valentine’s Day, sit down together, indulge in a fun treat and read the notes as a family. You can even keep the tradition going on throughout the year by finding special days to share more notes.



Children's Library **“Book of the Month”**

Each month we will spotlight a book that is available in our Children’s Library. Our library is located in the Sunday school wing at the end of the hallway. There are numerous books, DVD’s and videos that may be checked out. Come and visit!

This month’s book is **“the Boy with the Big, Big**

Feelings. Written by Britney Winn Lee and Illustrated by Jacob Souva.

Meet a boy with feelings so big that they glow from his cheeks, spill out of his eyes, and jump up and down on his chest. Worried about rejection, he tries to hide his feelings from the other kids at school. When he meets a girl with big feelings too, he discovers that having big emotions is nothing to be ashamed of. Big feelings happen to all of us!



This book was purchased with funds from the Betsy Roetzer memorial.

Sunday School



A pajama party was held this past Sunday, January 30th. Here are a few glimpses of the kids enjoying a movie, crafts, and snacks! Thank you, Little Lutheran Youth Committee for hosting this fun event!



Join us each Sunday for Pre-K through 6th grade Sunday School. We start at 10:00 a.m. in church for a children's sermon, and then go to our classrooms!



Upcoming Classes

February 6th and 20th
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Emmanuel's High School Youth



GLOW Youth Group

We meet the first Tuesday of
each month

6:15-7:45 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 tried out their sleds! They worked great, and we had a blast!

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!



Sledding Party!

Sunday, February 27th
1-3 p.m.



The Little Lutherans Youth committee is hosting a sledding party at Water Tower Park in Menominee for all of our children to enjoy - Sunday school through confirmation age!

Please sign-up in the narthex or email Patti at ptreptow@e-mmanuel.com.

We will meet at Water Tower Park. Little Lutheran Chaperones will be transporting the kids back to church for ice cream and cocoa! You may pick up your child in the fellowship hall at church at 3:00 p.m. Parents are welcome to stay for the fun!



If the weather does not allow for sledding, we will have a game party at church during this time. You will be notified via text message and email if we need to make this change. There will be games for all ages and a build-your-own Sundae station and cocoa!





tacklehunger.org

Once again Emmanuel Lutheran Church will participate in the “Souper Bowl of Caring” to help tackle hunger. We will be collecting cans of soup on Super Bowl Sunday, February 13th. You may drop off your cans of soup in the narthex on that day. This one-day collection of soup will be given to St. Vincent DePul’s Food Pantry.

Please join in and help make a difference by tackling hunger in our community!



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 February and March 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.

Financial Statements

We are not mailing out the end of the year financial statements unless you request one. You can either stop in the office or call the church office and Judy will print it up for you.

Adult Bible Study

Robin Gustafson will resume this adult education opportunity in Spring.

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.

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EMMANUEL

8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. in person
Online Worship 8:00 a.m.
Livestreamed on our Facebook page

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Email: mail@e-mmanuel.com

Council President, Matt Vanni

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

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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