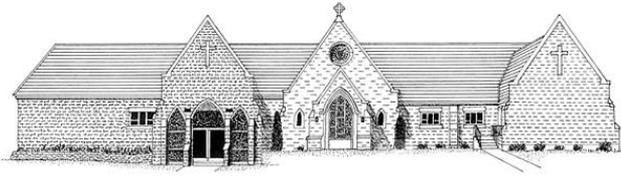


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan

MARCH

2022



Ash Wednesday services (virtual and in-person, with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion) 10:00 am and 6:00 pm.

See inside for Midweek Lenten Worship Information and Schedule

FROM THE PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

While I am a person who does not place a lot of value in the possessions which I do have, primarily because the ones which I do possess carry little to no value, I also have what might be considered a horrible habit of utilizing the things that I do have well past their point of usefulness, or even safety, for that matter.

For starters, my lovely wife Amy points out to me – often – that my wardrobe comes straight out of the 1980's. Any kind of defense which I might offer to this scathing accusation is flimsy and full of holes, much like many of the socks in my drawer. One year ago, I documented in these very pages that I'd finally traded in my beloved "man van" for the much newer (and safer!) mode of transportation which I now possess. Headlights which don't sporadically go out on you and an accelerator which doesn't freeze up on you when leave it on cruise control in cold weather are nice touches which I'm adapting to quite well. I've also learned that you can eat bratwurst six days in a row. Note, I do stress that you *can* eat it for six days in a row, not that any sane person ever *should*. But, when you open up the fridge, and a bag of brats are blocking access to the fruit bowl; well, it's just a matter of convenience at that point.

My most recent example of holding on to something too long would be my iphone, an iphone 6, circa 2015, to be specific. When my son Jacob went in and got a new phone in late 2020, the sales representative at Cellcom, while looking at the accounts on our family plan, casually(?) mentioned to him that she'd never seen someone hold on to their iphone as long as I'd held on to mine. Back in the fall I received a letter from Cellcom informing me that I was going to have to replace my phone because of their 5G upgrade, of which my phone is only 3G, no longer a network which would be available. I called their bluff and didn't upgrade; instead, my phone apparently took matters into its own hand.

The phone, you see, had reached a point where it would invariably just shut down on me. It could happen the moment which I opened it up or could happen five minutes into using it; but, at some point, it would sporadically just shut down and eventually restart itself.

The only way to counter this was to keep the phone plugged in at all times, which works, but isn't very practical for a very important instrument that is often necessary to be on me, wherever I am, throughout the day. I had to giggle at one point because, it dawned on me that I had completely reverted back to using a phone that had to be connected to a line in the wall. But, as long as that phone was connected, it would remain charged; thus, it could be used and relied upon to perform all its functions.

As we enter through the Lenten door on Ash Wednesday, this might be a little invitation for us as well to ensure that we are spiritually "plugged in" so that we can be charged to engage with the Spirit during these six weeks of Lent. It's an opportunity for us to explore a deeper prayer life, to commit ourselves to reading scripture which we've, for one reason or another, never really familiarized ourselves with, or to engage on another level with worship, whether it be ensuring that we make attending church a priority or even volunteering to serve in some manner. Whatever we choose to do to enter into deepening our faith during this time of Lent is based on being "plugged in," so that we know that we are charged and ready for being present in our world as God's hands.

In fact, Lent can be a reminder that it is not only time to be plugged in for what is new, but is also an appropriate moment for us to discard of what doesn't work for us (note to self!), for what is no longer practical for us, and for what is no longer healthy for us, whether it be spiritual health, mental health, or even our physical health. We have a God who is more than willing to provide us with all that we need to experience what is good for us. Let us be willing recipients to all the gracious gifts that God offers to us during this most important season of our lives of faith.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

EMMANUEL BUDGET NEWS
As of January 31, 2022

*Your Contributions to the General Fund	\$17,537.83
*Your Approved Budget Amount	\$20,584.50

Midweek Lent Services

We will be returning to in person midweek Lent worship this year, but, because of the mutual agreement between Emmanuel and Bethel to not join together yet this year, the midweek services will be different. There will be no evening services offered, as well as no soup suppers. We are optimistic that we will be able to resume our beloved long-held traditions again in 2023.

Our theme for this year will be “*At the Foot of the Cross,*” taken from the book by the same name by the Reverend Dennis M. Mauer. In the place of a sermon each Wednesday, Pastor Mark will read a monologue of a person who was present during the crucifixion.

We will worship in-person and virtually each Wednesday morning at 10:00 am. For those who will worship on Facebook Live, bulletins will be available for you to have in your home by Sunday, March 6th. If you would like it mailed or emailed to you, please let the church office know.

Our schedule and themes for our gatherings will be:

March 9th – Mary Magdalene “*You Made Me Okay*” based on St. Luke 8:1-3 and St. Matthew 27:55-56.

March 16th – Simon of Cyrene “*Forgive Them? Never!*” based on St. Mark 15:21-24.

March 23rd – The Centurion “*I Hate Executions*” based on St. Mark 15:25-39.

March 30th – John “*What’s Love Got To Do With This?*” based on St. John 15:9-13.

April 6th – Mary “*Hanging On To Faith*” based on St. John 19:25-30.

If you have any questions, or need further clarification, please contact the church office.



Barbara L. Smith was called to her eternal home on Wednesday, February 9th. A memorial service to celebrate Barb's life was held at Emmanuel, February 15th. May all who mourn be filled with the promised hope and joy of resurrection to life eternal.

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.



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!

Our family faith activity for March is on prayer. With the Lenten season upon us, it is a good time to learn more about Jesus, what the Lenten season is, and to help our kids feel more comfortable with praying. Prayer does not need to come with a lot of rules. In fact, Jesus taught us that talking to God can be comfortable, easy, natural, and honest. Jesus wants us to look at prayer as a good conversation with our daddy - *Abba*, rather than an impressive, spiritual show and tell.

A prayer activity take-home flyer and Lenten devotion will be distributed to your children in Sunday school on March 6th to share with your entire family. This devotion will also be available in the narthex. I hope these activities will help your kids learn more about Jesus, Lent, and help make them feel more comfortable with talking to God like they’d talk with a friend. That’s what prayer really is!

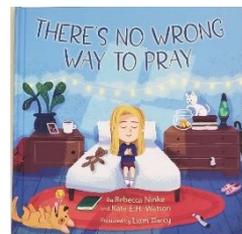
- Patti Treptow



Children's Library “Book of the Month”

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

This month’s book is **“There’s No Wrong Way to Pray”**, by Rebecca Ninke and Kate E.H. Watson. Author Rebecca Ninke and her daughter reflect on the importance of prayer in everyday life - why to pray, when to pray, and how to pray. Sometimes funny, sometimes profound, and always honest, this book will inspire kids of all ages that there is no wrong way to talk to God!



Youth Ministries



Sunday School

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!

First Communion Instruction

Holy Communion classes for our 5th graders and any 6th graders who have not yet received this instruction, will start on **March 20th** and will run for four weeks. Students will then join with their family for a traditional Seder Meal and take their first Holy Communion during the Maundy Thursday worship service on April 14th. Letters and registration forms regarding the classes will go out Monday, February 28th.



Upcoming Classes

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



Emmanuel's High School Youth

GLOW Youth Group
We will meet Ash Wednesday, March 2nd
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

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



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 - **all of our community's youth are invited**. Activities and programs are determined by your interests! Our youth are currently writing a script for a video they will be filming soon. Upcoming events also include tie dyeing, robot building and battle! You are welcome to join in the fun!



Sledding Party! Sunday, February 27th 1:00 -3:00 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! Sign-up in the narthex or email Patti at ptreptow@e-mmanuel.com. Please include your cell phone number so we may call with any last-minute updates.

We will meet at Water Tower Park at 1:00 p.m. If parents do not wish to stay, Little Lutheran Chaperones will transport 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.

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 or phone call or email if we need to make this change. There will be games for all ages and a build-your-own Sundae station and cocoa! Parents are welcome to join in the fun!



Adult Ministries

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 and water.

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.



The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who donated cans of soup for the Souper Bowl of Caring. The soup was received by St. Vincent dePaul's pantry staff with great appreciation and thanks!



FORTUNE LAKE

A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

Sumer Camp 2022

Registration for Fortune Lake summer camp is available now. We understand that the cost of camp is difficult for some families. Emmanuel does have limited scholarship funds available. Scholarship applications and more information on camp can be obtained in the church office.



FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP

	DATES	CAMP PROGRAM & AGE/GRADE COMPLETED	COST
Week 1	June 12-17	Victory Camp (Adult 18+ with disabilities)	\$625
Week 2	June 19-24	Intergenerational Week (all ages)	See website
		LIT Training Week (Grades 10-12)	\$425
Week 3	June 26-July 1	High School Week (Grades 9-12)	\$425
		Mighty Ones (Grades 1-2)	\$205
Week 4	July 5-8	Mini Camp (Grades 2-3) Mash Ups (Grades 4-8)	\$305
		LIT Option #1 (Grades 10-12)	No charge
Week 5	July 10-15	Villager (Grades 3-4) Vagabond (Grades 5-6) Venturer (Grades 7-8)	\$425
		LIT #2 Option (Grades 10-12)	No charge
Week 6	July 17-22	Art Camp (Grades 3-8) LEGO® Camp (Grades 3-8)	\$455 \$425
		Jr High Night Owl (Grades 6-8)	\$425
Week 7	July 24-29	LIT #3 Option (Grades 10-12)	No charge
		Intergenerational Week (all ages) Onsite Day Camp M-Th (grades K-5)	See website \$110
Week 8	July 31-Aug 6	Musical Theatre Week (All ages - see website.)	See website
Week 9	Aug 7-10	Mini Camp (Grades 2-3) Villager (Grades 3-4)	\$305
		Vagabond (Grades 5-6) Venturer (Grades 7-8) LIT #4 Option (Grades 10-12)	\$305 No charge

2022 SCHEDULE

More info at FortuneLake.org

REGISTRATION & DISCOUNTS

Register by March 1 for a FREE t-shirt, April 1 for a \$15-\$25 discount.
See website for all discounts, eligibility, and program information.
Register online & find forms at FORTUNELAKE.ORG

Holy Grounds Coffee Hour



Please join us in the fellowship hall between at 9:00 and 10:00a.m.
to enjoy a cup of coffee, treats and fellowship.

13th Street Stained Glass

You may have noticed over the past several years how some of the stones had fallen out of the stained-glass window over the 13th Street entrance. We have determined that it is time to repair this before the window had reached a point where it is no longer reparable. The window may be gone for several weeks to months, but we'll let you know when the refurbished window is back in place, letting God's light shine through in amazing new color!

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

CONTACT US:

Phone: (906) 863-3431

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

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