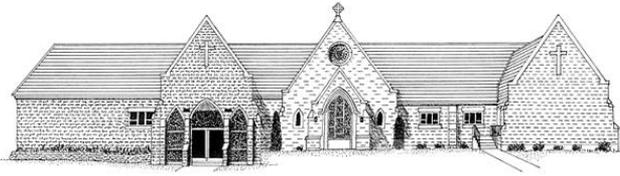


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan

April

2022

Holy Week & Easter at Emmanuel

*Sunday of the Passion/
Palm Sunday - April 10
Worship at 8:00am and 10:00am*

*Maundy Thursday Service - April 14
Worship at 10:00am and 6:00pm
4:00 p.m. 1st Communion Session/ 5:00 p.m. Seder Meal*

*Good Friday Service at Emmanuel - April 15
Worship at 6:00pm*

*The Resurrection of Our Lord - April 17
Worship at 8:00am and 10:00am*

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Misplacing your wallet can make you become a *very* anxious person.

Case in point. Several weeks ago as I was preparing to go to the grocery store, it occurred to me that my wallet was not in the drawer where I characteristically place it after removing it from my pocket. I looked high and low, all over the house and in our vehicles; but the wallet was nowhere to be found.

The longer I searched, the more anxious I became. I hadn't driven anywhere in a few days, and so I was replaying everyplace I had been, going back several days. Had all of my personal information been in somebody else's hands for two or three days by that point? All of the worst possible scenarios played out in my mind; has somebody stolen my credit cards, my bank account information, my social security number, my driver's license? I was teetering on the edge of despair, fearing that my identity and credit, my "life," if you will, had been taken from me.

That despair gave way to joy when I finally did locate my wallet, tucked nicely between the driver's seat and the center console of my car, where apparently it had fallen out of the front pocket of my running pants several days earlier. Anxiety turned into relief; the fear of my "life" being taken from me turned into assurance that my identity and credit were still safe.

I imagine that the women who came to Jesus' tomb experienced despair turn to joy upon hearing those words that, "He has risen." After following him to the cross, and seeing his limp body hanging there, the thought must have crossed their minds, "where do we look now?" Seemingly, death still held dominion over their lives and sin would prevail in the end.

But upon hearing those words, and then seeing the risen Savior, they were assured that death would not have the final say and that their identities, identities as being claimed children of God, were still safe, and would be for all eternity. Their despair turned to joy, anxiety turned to relief. That's the power that the cross and the resurrection of Jesus Christ has in our lives.

My prayer for you is that as we transition from Lent to Easter, from the despair of the cross to the hope of resurrection, that you all experience the power and the joy of the Risen Christ. Be filled with the assurance that while your "life" may get misplaced sometimes, that anxiety and despair, and sin and death may appear to have dominion over you, that your life is indeed in the safe and secure hands of the one who has promised that he will never lose you, but who values your life even more than you possibly could, and will give you the rewards of the kingdom; for that is something which we could never put a price on!

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

EMMANUEL BUDGET NEWS
As of February 28, 2022

*Your Contributions to the General Fund	\$35,258.07
*Your Approved Budget Amount	\$43,105.67

A Memorial Gift was given in loving memory of *Alma Ault-Luedtke* who designed and made the stain glass windows around our front door of our church. Her brother, Al Rasmussen gave money towards the restoration of these pieces of art, so that they will remain for years to come.



As the Easter season is soon upon us, so too are thoughts of warm weather and planning our gardens. Our faith is much like this. We need to cultivate our soil so the seeds of faith can be planted, nurture our seeds of faith so they grow, and then harvest our faith by spreading it to others. So just as a seed planted in the spring requires

nurturing throughout its growing season, our faith needs to be nurtured also. Pastor Keith Johnson, a children's pastor in Eden Prairie, Minnesota reminds us that "a spiritual home will produce a spiritual child who matures into a spiritual adult". Just what parents need, more pressure and more things to fit into an already crazy schedule! Moses even suggests in Deuteronomy 6:6-9....

Memorize His laws and tell them to your children over and over again. Talk about them all the time, whether you're at home or walking along the road or going to bed at night, or getting up in the morning. Write down copies and tie them to your wrists and foreheads to help you obey them. Write these laws on the door frames of your homes and on your town gates.

Wow! This sounds overwhelming. Helping our children grow in their faith does not need to be this difficult. Before you give up, know that activities that are natural yet directed, routine yet imaginative, personal yet spiritual are ways to nurture faith at home. Here are some ideas that may help....

Meals together - mealtimes together as a family may be difficult, but when they happen, use the time to nurture faith. While dishing out table setting chores, include assigning the dinner prayer to your children. Encourage conversation by asking open ended questions such as "what's the best thing that happened to you today? the worst? Instead of asking "what did you do today?" ask "who did you play with at recess? or "who did you sit with at lunch and what did you talk about?" Maybe include a "God Sighting" in your discussion by asking how did they see God today?

Prayer - Praying with your child each night before bed or together as a family at meal time are wonderful times to pray. But, when you see opportunities outside the home such as an ambulance racing by or you come upon an accident, take that moment to pray out loud for the people who may be involved. When your children see and hear you pray, they will model you. Next time you come upon a scene that needs prayer, you can ask who would like to say a prayer.

Conflict Resolvers - When siblings get on each other's nerves and tension arises, have the offender say or write four things he or she appreciates about the other person. This makes us thankful for one another and softens our hearts. Conflicts and discipline can become great opportunities to share God's forgiveness and unconditional love.

If you have any ideas that your family does to nurture faith at home that you would like to share, please let me know!

- Patti Treptow

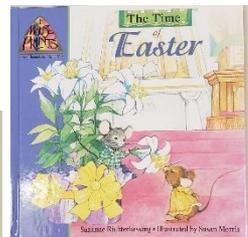
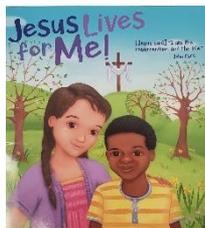
Children's Library "Book of the Month"



This month we have two books spotlighted about Holy Week and Easter. **"The Time of Easter"** explains how Holy Week and Easter are celebrated in the church through the eyes of a whimsical family of church mice. In the book **"Jesus Lives for Me!"** we receive the joyous message of

Jesus' love for us as told in simple rhyme.

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!



Youth Ministries

5th / 6th Grade **First Communion Instruction**



Class Schedule: Sunday, March 20th
Sunday, March 27th
Sunday, April 3rd
Sunday, April 10th

All classes start directly at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room at the end of the office hallway.

Final Communion instruction will be on Maundy Thursday, April 14th starting at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, with a symbolic Seder meal in the fellowship hall at 5:00 p.m. involving their families, ending with the Maundy Thursday worship service at 6:00 p.m. where the children will receive their first Holy Communion with their family.



Sunday School

The Sunday school children will be participating in the traditional **Palm Procession** on Palm Sunday, April 10th during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Parents, please leave your children in the main narthex to prepare for the procession. Following the children's sermon, the children will be dismissed to their classrooms. Please note that there will be **no Sunday school on Easter Sunday, April 17th** so our families can worship together for the entire Easter Sunday service.



Easter Egg Hunt

On Palm Sunday - April 10th at 11:00 a.m.

All children from toddlers to 6th grade are welcomed to join in an egg hunt at 11:00 a.m. Please meet in the narthex following worship/Sunday school. Thank you Little Lutherans Youth Committee for hosting this fun event!



The last day of classes for this program year is Sunday, April 3rd. The 8th graders will present their faith projects during this class time. The students will also enjoy a pizza and game party during the last part of class time.



Emmanuel's High School Youth

GLOW Youth Group

Wednesday, April 6th - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

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

Upcoming activities:

April 10th - Pancake Breakfast - Mission Trip Fundraiser

April 23rd - Volunteer at the Menominee Animal Shelter



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.**



FORTUNE LAKE

A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

Summer 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. Check the kiosk in the narthex for camp weeks and costs



Menominee Animal Shelter Collection

April 10th and April 17th

Emmanuel's GLOW youth group is sponsoring a collection of needed items to help the Menominee Animal Shelter. Look for the red dog house in the narthex for ways you can help. Our GLOW youth will present this collection when they volunteer at the shelter on Saturday, April 23rd.



Emmanuel's Outreach Projects

Easter Baskets

The Outreach Committee will be putting together Easter baskets for our shut-ins. The baskets will contain treats and fun items that will lift the spirits and let our members who can no longer attend our worship services or church activities know that we are thinking of them. The baskets will be delivered during Holy Week.



**Palm Sunday
April 10th**



Pancake Breakfast Youth Fundraiser

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sausage, fruit, juice and coffee will be available.

FREE WILL OFFERING

Proceeds go toward the summer 2023 youth mission trip.

Please sign up as to which breakfast time you will be attending.

Adult Ministries

Adult Bible Study

Resumes Monday, April 25, 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 offered at Emmanuel every Wednesday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the church Narthex. Meetings are casual, so you are free to come and go throughout the meeting time.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In addition to the regular Wednesday meetings at Emmanuel, there will be an opportunity for those who attend the support group, and to anyone else interested, to learn more about the diseases that cause dementia. On Tuesday, April 19, 2022, from 5:00 to 6:00pm at Emmanuel, you may attend, free of charge, the Purple Angel Training program presented by the Dementia Friendly Community Coalition. Its purpose is simple: To raise awareness and education of all types of dementia, to show support for those dealing with all types of dementia, to remove the stigma that exists, and to improve the communication skills of caregivers who care for loved ones dealing with these diseases. This Purple Angel Training program is designated for caregivers, other family members and friends, and anyone else interested in learning more about dementia.

Registration is necessary to prepare folders for those attending.

You may call June Ehlers, 715-938-3589, or by email at

jmeblers@new.rr.com, or Judy Raygo, 906-863-3431. Please register

early, and no later than Friday, April 15. We look forward to sharing our dementia friendly information with all that are interested.

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.

Holy Grounds Coffee Hour



*My Cup
Overflows
With Your
Blessings*

Join us in the Fellowship Hall
from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

2022 Lenten Socks and Underwear Challenge

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE? The NGLS Youth Ministry Team is looking to challenge a minimum of 40 congregations to collect at least 40 pairs of socks and underwear this Lenten season.

WHY SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR? This challenge is inspired by The Drawer, a nonprofit located in Minneapolis, MN, that collects new socks and underwear to distribute to people in need. Socks are the #1 requested clothing item in homeless shelters. The #2 requested item is underwear. 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering attendees were encouraged to collect socks and underwear for The Drawer and bring them to this summer's Gathering. With the recent cancellation of the 2022 Gathering, we recognize that there is still a need and want to help fill the void.

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I remember my first time going to Bible camp, where the youth of the church and their friends gather for a week of fun, fellowship, learning, and more.

As often happens at Bible camp, the campers were led through a series of team building exercises, one of which was “The Trust Fall.” I would guess many of you have participated in this exercise and even as you read this, you’re remembering your own experience. Did they catch you? Did you fall to the ground? Did you drop anybody?

For those of you unfamiliar with “The Trust Fall,” imagine you are standing on the very edge of a picnic table, with just enough of your toes on one end to keep you standing on the table and your heels hanging off the side. You have been instructed that at the moment when you fall back that you are to cross your arms over your chest to keep from flailing wildly and accidentally whacking someone in the face or taking out a fellow camper’s eye. Your heart begins to race as you watch your fellow campers below the table arrange themselves in two lines. They stand facing each other starting from the edge of that picnic table. Their arms are outstretched in a pattern that alternates elbows and wrists, left and right, from each side of the line.

You look down at them at what seems like a very flimsy zippered net of skinny middle school arms. Sure, there’s the camp counselor, but that person is not particularly positioned to catch you. Your fellow campers are supposed to catch you...with their scrawny pre-pubescent arms they’re supposed to catch you. These fellow middle school campers look up at you, and you can see that they’re not so sure about this either. The full magnitude of this action settles into your gut as you realize what this all means, that you’re supposed to fall backwards from the discomfiting four-foot height of the picnic table into this bony net of weak, angular wrists and elbows, mere ulnas and radiuses, that you’re quite sure will snap and break like dry twigs when your body slams into them.

You have never witnessed a trust fall, and you’re pretty sure that you’re going to get hurt somehow. But the camp counselor assures you that all will be well. You consider stepping off that picnic table, but everyone is looking at you, and you don’t want to be considered a coward. So you steel yourself, cross your arms over your chest, and with grim resolve, face forward. You hear your counselor say, “Ready?” and you reply with a conviction you don’t feel, “Ready!” Fall away!

And through an act of will you let your body fall backward. But really, more accurately, you let go of what's keeping you upright, you let go of fear and apprehension, you let go of all the reasons not to let go. You let your body fall...and you trust that scrawny net of bony pre-pubescent arms to catch you even as you brace yourself for a spine jarring impact on your tail bone. For a brief, shining, moment, you are airborne. You are in flight. You are weightless, until you feel those scrawny arms catch you, surprising in their strength, their resolve, to care for you, to keep you safe, and not let you hit the ground.

And you are amazed! Euphoric! The adrenaline of that brief act of courage hits you like a wave of joy. You are so relieved...and surprised! Who knew scrawny pre-pubescent arms could work so well together? To catch even a body in free fall? Who knew?

In Hebrews 11:1 we read, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

For the past two years, in many ways, we have been in freefall...this untethered descent into the space of the unknown, uncertain of our landing, unsure of the damages and unclear how much we can depend on those we need to depend on.

No, the pandemic is not over. No, we have not yet "landed." Yet, God gives us instructions through Jesus the Christ as to how we should line up in order to provide safety for ourselves and others. One of us, alone, cannot provide the needed support, but all of us together, with combined strength and resolve, can work well together, no matter how ill equipped we might seem. We have Christ's own assurance, that even though we cannot see the presence of God, God is with us.

Ultimately, in faith, we trust that God will catch us. In faith, we trust that together, we have what it takes to care for each other and keep each other safe. In faith, we are stronger than we know and braver than we feel. In faith, we have received the promise of God's abiding presence. We may not ever feel ready, and yet, in faith, by the grace of God, we are blessed to "fall away" and feel the love of God in the many arms of the community of faith that seek to catch us.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

Easter Memorials

As you prayerfully consider your *Easter Memorial* contributions, please know that all of your gifts are appreciated and used to further various ministries of our congregation and wider church.

Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies are \$15.00 each and may be taken home after the 10:00 a.m. Easter service or picked up during the following week.

Youth Mission Fund:

The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering has been cancelled, and so we are looking to the future and planning a mission trip the summer of 2023. This fund enables us to financially support the Emmanuel youth and adult leaders who will participate in this faith-affirming week of service, learning, and worship.

Emmanuel Maintenance Fund:

As our church campus grows older, the maintenance needs become a bit more pronounced. This fund has been established to be responsive to the ongoing physical maintenance of the church building and property. Currently, monies from this fund are going toward renewing the 13th Street stain-glass windows.

ELCA World Hunger:

Your designations to the ELCA World Hunger appeal go directly toward the church's call to justice in response to those who do not have food through the ELCA's Good Gifts program. The money is used to provide farm animals, garden plants, and to dig wells for those who do not have the resources to do this on their own.



All Easter memorials must be received by

Sunday, April 10th

*to be included in the Easter Memorial booklet.
Your gifts are greatly appreciated.*

I would like to:

\$_____ Place an Easter Lily in the chancel (\$15.00 each)

\$_____ Youth Mission Fund

\$_____ Emmanuel Maintenance Fund

\$_____ ELCA – World Hunger Appeal

Given _____ In memory of _____

_____ In honor of _____

_____ In thanks to God _____

By _____

Envelope Number _____

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

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