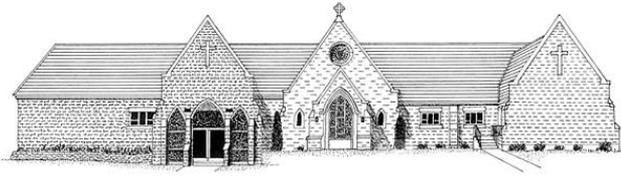


# THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Menominee, Michigan

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**JULY**

**2022**

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*Independence  
Day*

*is a time to remember  
our freedoms and  
thank God for them.*

# FROM THE PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Last week was the Menominee garbage bulk item pickup week, which is, hands down, my favorite week of the year.

Even though our garbage day isn't until Friday, by Monday of last week I had drug several items out from our garage and placed them on the curb knowing full well that there would be persons out, scouring the streets, looking for items for which they can take for themselves, flip for a small profit, or deconstruct for the purpose of pulling out the scrap metal or any other pieces that may have value. It doesn't matter to me why they may want it in that I just want this stuff out of my possession.

I wasn't disappointed in that several items were taken the first day I put them out and several more were picked up over the course of the week that by time the garbage truck arrived on Friday I was left with just a handful of items remaining for pickup, which they obliged to do. For myself, there is a sense of "cleansing" when this stuff that I no longer want is gone. I vow to start over and not procure things for myself that are just going to enjoy a short stay in my possession before finding themselves on the curb. I vow to minimalize and not allow clutter to seep its way back in. I make these vows and yet, I return to the same habits and practices, and when the next bulk garbage pickup day is scheduled, I'm right there putting a lot of stuff out on the curb again.

Faith's journey can often parallel this. I make vows to more consistently engage in a deeper prayer life and study scripture more intentionally and practice my faith in ways that are totally selfless and devoid of any kind of self-righteousness, yet I allow clutter to come back into my life and get away of these practices. I use the excuses of not having the time or the money or the resources as protection from completely giving myself over to Christ and what he is calling me to. I accumulate enough other "stuff" to keep me occupied and protected, yet I know full well that it will only provide that comfort for a finite time.

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, our Gospel lesson will focus on St. Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer, the prayer which Jesus used as a model to teach his disciples how to pray and the prayer which we have adopted as our unifying prayer. When I teach this to our confirmation students, I stress the importance of the "forgive us our sins as we forgive those against us" line. In it, we are asking God to take away our sins, which God joyfully does because God wants nothing more than to have a relationship with us that is not cluttered with sin. But it's just as important that we intentionally forgive the sins of others, for without doing so, we inherit the baggage of the sin, storing it up and holding on to it for no purpose other than to simply hold on to it.

But what also can't be lost in this is that there is an expectation implied that we will sin as well as have to forgive sin. None of us are immune to it. It means that this is an ongoing process of purging the junk and clutter from our lives and placing it on the curb so that God can take it from us, freeing us to fill that space with generosity and gratitude instead. This practice will need to continue to happen until the moment that we take that journey from life through death to eternal life and the only things from this world that go with us are the love and the relationships that we've accumulated over the years.

I hope and pray that you all have a most blessed and safe summer in which you are able to accumulate many joyous moments and are filled with the certainty of God's promises. When you pray the Lord's Prayer, intentionally focus on these words that remind you that you are to purge from your lives what is weighing you down, for in doing so, you will understand true freedom.

In Christ

*Pastor Mark*

## **EMMANUEL BUDGET NEWS**

**As of May 31, 2022**

<b>*Your Contributions to the General Fund</b>	<b>\$93,308.13</b>
<b>*Your Approved Budget Amount</b>	<b>\$108,717.51</b>



**Randall Anderson**, the son of Peter and Jeanne Anderson, and the brother of Kara Johnson, passed away unexpectedly from a pulmonary embolism on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at his home. Services for Randall were held on Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at Prasser-Klecckza Funeral Home in Milwaukee. May all who mourn be filled with the promised resurrection to eternal life



*Washed in the waters of Holy Baptism*

**Lennix Anne Marie and Addilynn Kelly Elizabeth**, children of Kyle and Sarah Beauchamp were washed in the waters of Holy Baptism on June 5. Lennix's sponsors were Travis Ferguson and LouAnne Staple. Addilynn's sponsors were Stephen Ferguson and Kelly Ferguson

**Jerryn Leeson**, daughter of Todd and Tate Bronold, was washed in the waters of Holy Baptism on June 26. Jerryn's sponsor was Gunther DeDamos.

### **Help needed for weeding**

We are in need of people who would be willing to help keep our outside grounds cleaned. If you would be willing to help weed, please call the office.

# High School Graduate Recognition



A special service and reception honoring our graduates was held on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> during 9:00 a.m. worship. Our graduates who were able to attend were (from left to right) Laura Magrane – will attend Central Michigan University, Alex Engman – will attend Northern

Michigan University Marquette, Collin Engman – will attend Michigan Tech Houghton, Kade Lesperance – Central Michigan University, Raquel Botbyl – will attend University of Wisconsin Green Bay and Layla Camps – will attend University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Not pictured, Aidan Bellisle – will attend Northern Michigan University. We pray for God's blessings upon them as they start college.



## 2022 Vacation Bible School Tuesday-Thursday July 26, 27, & 28 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon

Children entering Kindergarten through 6th grade this fall are invited to join in acres of fun at HayDay VBS! At HayDay VBS, kids will grow in friendship with Jesus. Our VBS is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences, team building games, cool Bible songs, and multi-sensory Bible adventures that help faith flow into real life.

A letter with details on our VBS program and a registration form has been mailed out to our families. If you did not receive a registration form, they are also available in the church office or may be downloaded from the church website at [www.e-mmanuel.com](http://www.e-mmanuel.com) under "Our Learning/VBS".



**Deadline to register is Monday, July 10th**



*Kids, PreK through 6th grade, join us for some summer fun and faith!*

Each Sunday, children will meet in the narthex before worship service. We will then go either outside or in the children's library for Bible stories, games, crafts, and snacks!

No registration needed - just show up!



### **Summer Second Sunday Services**

Weather permitting, our first outdoor service of 2022 will be **Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00am** in the 14<sup>th</sup> Street parking lot. Bring a lawn chair (if you don't have one, don't worry, we've got chairs!) and join your friends in proclaiming God's love with God's good creation as our backdrop.

# ***YOUTH MINISTRIES***

## **Confirmation / Youth Retreat**

**September 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> at Camp Bird**

Our 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation students as well as our high school youth are invited to participate in our annual youth retreat. Registration forms and more information will be mailed out next month to students/parents regarding this annual event. A retreat orientation meeting for parents and students will be held on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting.



## **GLOW Youth Night**

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

All high school youth are invited for a night of faith, food, and fun!

# ***ADULT MINISTRIES***

## ***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.

## ***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! 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

Emmanuel's Outreach committee will be helping the Menominee DHHS, Salvation Army, and St. Vincent DePaul with their collection of school supplies. A box is available in the narthex through July 22<sup>nd</sup> where you may donate much needed supplies.

Items needed: Backpacks, #2 pencils, pink wedge erasers, pencil cap erasers, 24 pk crayons, 24 ct Crayola colored pencils, broad tip markers, yellow hi-liters, ear buds, scientific TI30XS calculators, 3x5 index cards, 2 pocket folder with prongs, 2 pocket folder with 3 ring holes, college ruled filler paper, college ruled spiral notebooks, wide ruled spiral notebooks, wide ruled filler paper, 1" 3 ring binders, composition notebooks, 12" rulers, school supply boxes, pencil pouches, 5" scissors, small stapler &

staples, 4 oz Elmer's glue, facial tissues – boxes or tissue packs, ziplock quart or gallon bags, disinfectant wipes canister, and hand sanitizer.

If you prefer to donate a gift card, \$25.00 gift cards from Amazon, Walmart, Kohls, or TJ Maxx are suggested. Any gift cards donated should be brought directly to the church office.

A MENOMINEE DHHS, SALVATION ARMY AND ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLABORATION



**PLEASE DONATE SUPPLIES HERE ASAP!**

**WE EXPECT TO HELP OVER 600 STUDENTS THIS YEAR!**



**All donations help our local families! Thank you!!**

### Dear Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Thank you so much for your generous donation of summer shoes! These were much needed and will serve our kids well this season.

Thank you for serving local children in foster care.

*Faith Sandell*

CASA Executive Director

## **“See, I am making all things new.”**

### **Revelation 21:5 NRSV**

The title for my brief article is taken from the second scripture reading assigned for the Fifth Sunday of Easter. I love the verb tense in this translation. It’s a vision of God’s work being ongoing and not yet fully completed. It’s not translated, “I made all things new,” but rather, “...I am making all things new.” The trajectory is clear—God is still working. God is still creating, still redeeming, and still blessing our world.

Contrast this with the theology of Deism which emphasizes that God set things into motion and more or less is on the sidelines watching us. It’s the metaphor of the master clockmaker who has made a magnificent clock, wound it up, and leaves it to tick on its own. God expects us to do all the work. I believe that we have profound work to do as we bear witness to God’s vision for love, forgiveness, and justice. But I also believe that we are promised to not be alone in our work for God’s righteous purposes. Simply stated, I am not a big fan of Deism!

Pastor Carey Nieuwhof ([careynieuwhof.com](http://careynieuwhof.com)) blogs about contemporary matters of Christian ministry. Recently, he posted an article about, “12 Disruptive Church Trends That Will Rule 2022 (And the Post-Pandemic World).” The first trend noted was, “The Demise of the Old Model of Church.” Nieuwhof further says, “What was is gone. What will be hasn’t yet emerged.”

These seemingly obvious observations could lead to much anxiety and depression. But, how about embracing a vision of God “doing a new thing?”

The first reading assigned for the Fifth Sunday of Easter tells of a vision in Acts, chapter 11. Peter has a vision of being asked to eat food that had been forbidden in his religious tradition. “Get up, Peter: kill and eat.” “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.”

I'm sure this radical change of dietary restrictions being lifted must have been hard for Peter to "stomach" (pun intended!).

But Peter adjusted and lived into the new reality and new way of being faithful. God was alongside Peter encouraging him. Like Peter, changes in the way of being church might initially cause our "stomachs to turn."

Nieuwhof further writes that the key is to experiment, stay faithful to biblical principles, study your people, and study the culture. These are the key components of the Faithful Innovations process offered in our Northern Great Lakes Synod. I invite you to explore this training possibility for your congregation as our model of being church is being inevitably disrupted. Go to: [nglsynod.org/faithful-innovations](http://nglsynod.org/faithful-innovations).

Whether or not you formally engage in the Faithful Innovations trainings, I pray that God's Spirit might encourage you to join in with the Lord who is making all things new.

Rev. Jim Duehring

Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,



As I write this, it is the Monday after our 34<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly. We are in the second year of a three-year theme focused on the passage from I Corinthians, “And now Faith, Hope, and Love Abide, these three.” We know the greatest of these is love, but this year we are focusing on Faith.

Martin Luther describes faith as a “living, busy, active, mighty thing.” As Lutherans, we teach that faith is a gift. And yet, faith is dynamic and moving, less a package to be opened and more a relationship to be nurtured - less a possession, and more a commitment of trust. In these last couple of pandemic years when we have had to work harder to stay connected, I think we understand more clearly the part that we play in building and nurturing our faith community.

Synod Assembly is a perfect example of what we do to build our faith community and celebrate a wider view of church. I hope you felt connected as you gathered in person as a voting member, participated in the week of online workshops, or watched the business meeting livestream.

I believe for the most part, things went smoothly. The sound was a little uneven from conference to conference, but people were willing to repeat their question or comment until we all understood.

One thing that I do not believe was understood fully was the reasoning and purpose of Resolution #7. In the fall of 2021, I was presented with the requirement to amend our constitution by our Churchwide Secretary, Sue Rothmeyer, who was being proactive in ensuring the 60/40 balance of lay and clergy voting members at synod assemblies in order to forestall any disputes as to the legality of a given outcome in future elections. We are one of a few synods who still have the provision in our constitution that all retired

rostered leaders in attendance at Synod Assembly receive both voice and vote.

Concern over lay and clergy balance has not been an issue in our synod before as so many pastors who have retired have not stayed geographically in our synod. Many, after retirement, have stayed on our NGLS roster, but they have moved far away and never expected to attend Synod Assembly.

In the last few years, this has changed, and more of our retired pastors have chosen to stay local and may well plan to attend Synod Assembly.

Granted, we are not the Florida/ Bahamas Synod, where I am guessing retired clergy outnumber active clergy and lay voting members combined, but the challenge to defend the constitutional requirement of at least 60% lay voting membership at Synod Assembly is the same.

Other synods have chosen different methods. Some ensure the balance by saying that:

1. No retired pastors are given voting privileges unless they are serving a congregation as an interim.
2. The retired pastors meet and agree who among them will represent their vote. The amount of voting members is a certain percentage of the total retired clergy population, often 10%.

After my conversation with Sue Rothmeyer, I sent an email to all our retired pastors presenting them with the issue. I invited them to a Zoom meeting and welcomed their input. If they could not attend the Zoom, I asked that they send me their thoughts via email. I welcomed their ideas as to how best to constitutionally ensure the required balance.

Currently we have, or soon will have, 61 retired clergy on our roster, 35 of which might reasonably be expected to attend Synod Assembly. If each congregation sends their full number of lay people, we would see about 170 lay people at Synod Assembly, which would allow 110 clergy to be voting members. Assuming

that 79 congregations will send a clergyperson (knowing that some have a License Lay Minister), this allows for roughly 31-32 retired clergy to be voting members.

If, like some synods, we went with 10% of retired clergy, that would only afford 6 retired clergy the privilege of voting. Wanting to maximize the number of retired clergy who could vote, the proposal was made to wait until registration closed, have a hard number of lay voting members and active clergy, and from that, calculate the remaining balance of 40% of clergy and how many retired clergy could then vote.

I am very glad that more retired pastors are choosing to stay on the territory of the NGLS. They offer invaluable support and wisdom to the church, helping the work of ministry in countless ways even after retirement. I continue to be deeply grateful for their partnership and willingness to help. Having to limit, even a few, from the privilege of voting at Synod Assembly is a reality that this resolution seeks to address as fairly as possible, maximizing the voting participation of retired clergy who attend Synod Assembly.

What can you do?

- Maximize the amount of lay people your congregation sends to Synod Assembly and pay attention to gender balance.
- Rotate Synod Assembly participation among your members, giving more people the joy and witness of being church together.
- Next year we will be in person. Please include travel expense, hotel expense, and registration cost in your congregational budget for next year. Registration will be more like it was pre-COVIC, about \$180 per person.
- As always, the registration fee for retired clergy is waived.

Synod Assembly is energizing, joyful, informative, and Spirit blessed. We are church together, and never more so than when we worship and partner in ministry together.

This year was good, but I look forward to us all being together, in person, next year.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan



# SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EMMANUEL

**9:00 a.m. in person**  
**Online Worship 9:00 a.m.**

**Livestreamed on our Facebook page**

**CONTACT US:**

Phone: (906) 863-3431

Email: [mail@e-mmanuel.com](mailto:mail@e-mmanuel.com)

or

Visit us on the Web at [www.e-mmanuel.com](http://www.e-mmanuel.com)



*Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at*  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church Menominee Michigan ELCA

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*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