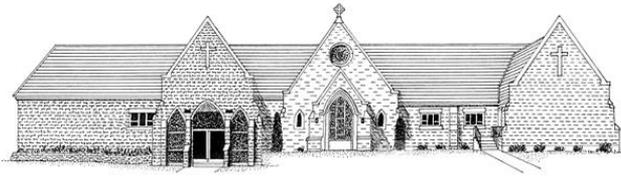


# THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Menominee, Michigan

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**AUGUST**

**2022**

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August  
Be present.  
Let the day flow with grace.  
Expect nothing. Give thanks.  
Surrender. Be open.  
Speak only kindness.  
Impart only love.  
Never forget you are not alone.  
Give so that you may receive.  
See goodness in others. mary  
davis

## FROM THE PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

A farmer who had experienced several bad years went to see the manager of his bank. “I’ve got some good news and some bad news to tell you. Which would you like to hear first?” he asked the bank manager.

“Why don’t you tell me the bad news first and get it over with?” the banker replied. “Okay. With the bad drought and inflation and all, I won’t be able to pay anything on my mortgage this year, either on the principal or the interest.” “Well, that is pretty bad.” “It gets worse,” the farmer went on. “I also won’t be able to pay anything on the loan for all the machinery I bought, nor on the principal or interest.” “Wow, is that ever bad!” the banker exclaimed. The farmer continued. “It’s worse than that. You remember I also borrowed to buy seeds and fertilizer and other supplies. Well, I can’t pay anything on those items either, principal or interest.” At this point, the banker could take no more. “That’s awful and that’s enough! Tell me what the good news is.” “The good news,” replied the farmer with a smile, “is that I intend to keep on doing business with you.”

As broken and sinful people, we understand full well that we’re overdrawn with God and that there is no way any of us could ever pay it back either, though it’s not for lack of trying. Unfortunately, sometimes life just gets in the way, and as we try to dig our way out, all we do is make the hole that we’re stuck in bigger, which only exacerbates our fears and concerns.

On this first Sunday in August, we will be reminded to not worry (easier said than done!) from the Gospel of Luke. We often are guilty of compounding anxiety by doing too much in trying to salvage or right our situations – and in the end what we accomplish is only to burn ourselves out or to create a deeper hole. St. Luke relays Jesus’ words to us: “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your

possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Luke 12:32-34) We are reminded that what God provides for us will sustain us and that our first response, not our last, desperate one, should be to turn to God; and, just as importantly, what God gives to us, God does so with nothing less than with unending joy.

It means that, no matter what, God will always want to continue to do business with us, knowing full well that we will never be able to even begin to pay God back. Even though we may feel bankrupt at times, whether it’s spiritually, emotionally, morally, or financially, God will nonetheless be there waiting on us to provide our next transaction, for God’s grace knows no depths.

As we enter into this last full month of summer, may our hearts and minds always be set on doing business with God. May we always find the time to give thanks for all that God gives to us from God’s endless supply of love. As well, when the terrain gets a little tougher to navigate, may we first turn to God to guide us, God who is waiting for us and willing to do whatever it takes to keep us in business with Him, for it’s a business proposition that we simply can’t lose!

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>

## **Summer Second Sunday Services**

Weather permitting, our final outdoor service of 2022 will be **Sunday, August 14<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.

### **“EMMANUEL CARES”**

AS THE CHURCH, WE HAVE A CALL AND RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN. **OUR AUGUST COLLECTION IS A HYGIENE DRIVE FOR THE U.P. FOSTER CLOSET.**

THE NEEDED ITEMS ARE UNDER GARMENTS (ALL SIZES AND STYLES, INCLUDING UNDERWEAR, TANKTOPS, BRAS, SPORT BRAS, AND T-SHIRTS) AS WELL AS HYGIENE ITEMS (SHAMPOO, CONDITIONER, BODY WASH, LOTION, LOOFAHS, RAZORS, SHAVING CREAM, MAKEUP, HAIR PRODUCT, FACE WASH, HAIR SUPPLIES, COMBS, BRUSHES, BABY/INFANT SUPPLIES, MOUTHWASH, DEODORANT, AND PADS/TAMPONS). WE WILL BLESS THE ITEMS RECEIVED ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, AUGUST 21<sup>ST</sup>. ANYTHING THAT CAN BE GIVEN IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

### **Back to School Bash**

Thank you to all who donated school items to help a student this school year!  
Your response was overwhelming.

### **Help needed**

Our plants outside are in need of a little loving care by someone who could give them a weeding job. If you are able to help, please call the church office.



**Margaret Staquet** was called to her heavenly home on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, just six days shy of her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday. Funeral services for Margaret were held at Emmanuel on Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. May her daughter, Sally Kudlicki, and all who mourn, be filled with the promised hope of resurrection to eternal life.

**Marcia Peters** passed away at home on Tuesday, July 19. A celebration of Marcia's life was held at Emmanuel on Friday, July 29, the same day that her and Bruce would have celebrated their 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary. May Bruce, their daughter, Kimberly, and all who mourn be filled with the promise of life eternal.

**Michael Oczus**, Heidi Oczus's husband, passed away at home on Thursday, July 14. A service was held at Cadieu Funeral Home in Menominee on Tuesday, July 26,. May God's peace and presence be with Heidi and their sons, Andrew and David (Arielle) and their families.

**Ruth Karkainen**, the mother of Dr. Michael Karkkainen, passed away at Rennes West in Peshtigo on Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. May Michael, and all who mourn be surrounded by the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ.



**Emmanuel's  
Outdoor Worship  
and  
Church Picnic**

**Henes Park  
Sunday, September 18th  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
(8:00 a.m. worship at church)  
Picnic to follow!**



**Pavilion #3**

**Watch for details in the  
September Messenger.**



## Confirmation / Youth Retreat

September 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>

Registration forms and more information will be mailed out this month to students/parents regarding this annual event that is held at Camp Bird. 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 fellowship hall. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting.

## 2022 Confirmation Classes

Information and registration forms for this year's classes will be mailed out to our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students/parents in September. Classes will start in October.

## Rite of Confirmation

Our 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Information regarding this very important step in our student's faith life will be mailed out in September to our incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders.



Emmanuel's high school youth have an opportunity to participate in a retreat at Camp Bird on September 10-11. We will join the confirmation students for worship and meals, but this time together will give us an opportunity to lead some activities for our incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, plan our program year, and enjoy the beauty of nature. A letter explaining the retreat, permission and registration forms will be mailed this month. An

informational meeting will be held on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. **If you have not been an active member of GLOW, this is the perfect time to join us! GLOW is open to all of Emmanuel high school youth.**





## Sunday School

Summer Sunday school at 9:00 a.m. continues through August. Fall Sunday school classes will start on **Sunday, September 25th**. All children in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend. Children will participate in the first part of the 10:00 a.m. worship service and then be released to classes following the children's sermon. More information on our Sunday School program activities as well as the registration form will be included in the September newsletter and be made available on the church website.



## HayDay Vacation Bible School

Emmanuel's VBS was held July 26-28. Our children headed out to the farm to "Grow in Friendship with Jesus!". Through songs, skits, Bible explorations, crafts, games and snacks, we all learned that "Jesus will always love us...He's my friend!" Our kids also participated in our service project "kids helping kids" where they collected coins to purchase chicks through the ELCA Good Gifts Program. The chicks purchased are given to families in need around the world.

VBS would not happen without your help. A big thank you goes out to the following for making this year's VBS so much fun!  
Games: Bill Taccolini, Rachel Magrane, Eli Camps, and Darrent Butler.

Snacks: Cindy Smith, Bonnie Jackson, Kay Hebert, Connie Taccolini, and Donna Hipke.

Crafts: Marie Engman and Layla Camps

Crew Leaders: Marisa Camps and Amber Camps

Bible Adventures, Skits, Music: Pastor Mark and Patti Treptow

Planning Team: Marilyn Mouritsen, Judy Raygo, and Patti Treptow

Community Presenters: Menominee County 4H – Kristin Havelka and Rebecca Havelka



- <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

~Psalm 51:10-12

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,



For two and a half years, my husband and I successfully avoided contracting COVID-19. We wore masks, stayed away from gatherings, quarantined after a suspected exposure, and basically did what we were supposed to do to avoid getting the virus. And we were successful...until this month. It started with a tickle in the throat, then came the fever and chills, then the difficult decision of whether to nap on the couch or sit in the chair or just go to bed. As of this writing, we have emerged from our COVID cave and are now back amongst the living...sort of. We are still moving slow. Processing thought or coming up with complete sentences is still a challenge. As many people who have had COVID-19 will tell you, a kind of fog settles in, like a congestion of the brain.

But enough of that. I write to share with you some wonderings about COVID-19 and the Church. It is no secret that people are tired, but until I contracted COVID, I hadn't really considered its physical toll and its impact on ministry. I believe we have all witnessed how COVID-19 has impacted our spirits, our emotions, our sense of community, and a certain heightened anxiety about what all this means. But physically...no wonder volunteerism is at an historic low! When even brushing one's teeth or making supper expends all energy reserves, I can see why there's not much strength left to lead Vacation Bible School, take a turn for the Altar Guild, or sing in the choir. Such extra activity, at least for a time, is truly beyond one's physical capacity.

And yet, this too shall pass. Energy will return. Creativity and strength and the resolve to contribute will slowly but surely gain momentum in my body and spirit. And not just for me, but for us, and our efforts together as congregations and as a synod together. It seems to me that we are collectively in this space of healing, waiting for restoration and renewal. Whether or not you have had to deal with the physical impact of COVID-19, I think we are all painfully aware of a certain dis-ease. People continue to be polarized concerning social and political issues. Some notice that in-person worship attendance or giving has not returned to pre-pandemic levels and we wonder what that means for the future of our church. We talk about wanting to move forward and yet long to be back where we were, which if we are honest, was still a place of decline and anxiety.

So where does that leave us? In truth, I believe we are still where we have always been, invited to participate in what God is doing in the world. I remind you and myself of what intellectually we already know, but perhaps emotionally and spiritually are challenged to own, that our Church, and your church, belong to God. And the body of Christ that you are a part of lives and breathes because God would have it be so. We rely on God to put in us a new and right spirit. We rely on the Holy Spirit to show us the way, to energize our efforts, and focus our mission to further the work of Christ.

In these days of healing and discernment, as we wait for renewal and even joy, I know that momentum is building. Congregations are considering their next steps, new plans for ministry are being made, people are emerging from isolation hungry for community and meaningful spiritual connection. As the Body of Christ in the world, we have something of value to offer. Whether your congregation provides an opportunity for deeper engagement or simply gives permission to be still and receive a word of hope and healing, the Church, your church, is meant to be a blessing. May God bless you with the joy of salvation and sustain you with a willing spirit.

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:

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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

## STAFF:

*Pastor*

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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