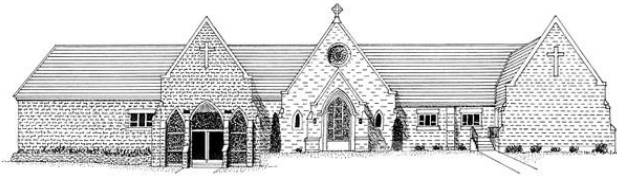


# THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Menominee, Michigan

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**JANUARY**

**2023**

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Emmanuel Annual Meeting will take place on  
Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Following the 9:00 service.  
Please see inside for more information.

## **It's Christmas Until Epiphany**

I need to confess that I've been a little snarky lately, and if you were the recipient of my snark, I apologize. My snark has been triggered by questions and comments surrounding the celebration of Christmas. Last year, on the second day of Christmas, I heard someone say, "Now that Christmas is over." I controlled myself and stayed quiet, but it wasn't easy. And, I haven't stayed quiet when people have questioned when to celebrate the 12 days of Christmas or have wondered how long their Christmas celebration should last. "Christmas begins on Christmas day," I say, "and lasts for 12 days. Each day is as much a day of Christmas as is the first one." I'm often surprised by the number of people for which this is new information.

My snarkiness, however, is uncalled for. Outside of the popular song, ("Five golden rings, ba dump, bump, bump!"), the knowledge of Christmas being celebrated for just shy of two weeks is mostly relegated to church nerds like me. And just like I am unaware of the basic theorems that physicists use every day, why should those outside the church or on its periphery be aware of the seasons of the church year and how long each one lasts?

Part of the confusion, surely, comes from the popularity of our, (the church's), celebration of Christmas. In case you haven't noticed, there are lots of people who like to celebrate it with us, people who have little to no idea what Christmas is all about. As the number of people who profess to have no faith continues to grow, there doesn't seem to be any slowdown in the number of people who celebrate Christmas.

It's tempting to get snarky with the "Reason for the Season" comments to those who don't believe, but I tend to take a different approach. How awesome is it that something as important to us as the birth of Christ is not only on the lips of those who profess to not believe, but that they also embrace many Christ-like attitudes and actions, like love, caring, generosity, sacrifice, and even humility. Imagine countless people around the world celebrating the birthday of your grandmother, people who have no idea how special she is to you or what made

her the wonderful person that she is/was. It's just "Ida's birthday, and we travel to be with family and friends, and we give gifts and have special meals and decorate and carol, and watch special movies on the Hallmark Channel, etc. all because it is Ida's birthday." It would be pretty awesome to have her remembered like that even though so many did not know her. It can be that way for Christmas as well. No snarkiness needed.

However, all those who celebrate our holiday usually conclude their celebrations shortly after the 25<sup>th</sup>, but we do not. We continue until the 6<sup>th</sup> of January when a new season in the church year starts: The celebration of Epiphany - the day when the magi come to see Jesus and present him with gifts. (By the way, here's another opportunity to be snarky. How many magi/wise men were there? We don't know because the Bible doesn't say. There was more than one, but the exact number is not listed. We know they gave three gifts, but those three gifts could have been given by two magi or by six. *Matthew 2:1-12*) We get 12 days to celebrate. I pray that your celebration is still filled with joy and wonder.

*Pastor Keith*



***Keith Champagne*** passed away December 10 at home. Keith's funeral service was held at Cadieu Funeral Home. Our sympathy to his wife, Pam, and son Larry (Sherri) Peterson and family. May all who mourn be filled with the promised hope and joy of resurrection of life eternal.

O sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.  
Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.  
For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.  
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.  
Honor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

—*Psalms 96:1-6*

Dear Friends of Emmanuel Lutheran Church,

I am thrilled and excited to be joining you in ministry at Emmanuel! I am looking forward to my move to Michigan and the beginning of our work together. I can't wait to get to know you and share in the blessings of God with you.

One thing you will learn about me quickly is that I have a great love for the Psalms. Martin Luther called the Book of Psalms the “little Bible”, for he said that all of the graces and gifts of God are contained therein. Up until a few years ago, I didn't have much appreciation for the Psalms; I pretty much ignored them. My love for the Psalms has grown over recent years as I have developed a regular prayer practice, journeyed through some difficult and painful times, wrestled with doubt and confusion, and found joy in the clarity of God's love for all the world. Why? Because the faithful can find every human feeling, doubt, and expression of faith in the Psalms. Whatever you may be feeling or wrestling with, you can find a time when the Psalmists experienced something similar and thereby gain both perspective through the teaching of the Psalmists and support by being in their company. The Psalms are prayers to God—honest prayers that wail in times of grief and pain and heartily rejoice in times of joy and good fortune. The Psalms honor God without hiding the truth of one's self from God, both the admirable and the not-so-admirable. They worship God in times of distress and of delight!

“What does this have to do with our work together?”, you may ask. It is my hope and desire that we will walk the way of the Psalms as we move forward together in ministry over the next 2-3 years. I pray that God will lead us to deep faith that allows us to be who we really are without fear of rejection. I hope that we can find a way to navigate difficult times together, like the Psalmists do, and share together in joy as we seek our God more fully. I have hope that the prayers that we share together will lead us deep within our hearts in awe of God *and* out into the world to live as disciples within our families, neighborhoods, and communities. I believe the Psalms can lead us into deeper relationship with God, with each other, and with others.

**I begin in ministry with you on February 20.** My first time leading worship with you will be on Ash Wednesday, February 22, then on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>. I will also be looking for ways to get to know you both in and outside of church. Look for opportunities to spend some time with me starting in spring. Until that time, I continue to keep you in prayer and look with anticipation to the day we gather together in the name of Christ.

Blessings to you in the name of the Most High God!

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Christine Olson*

## **Annual Meeting**

Emmanuel Lutheran Church will hold its Annual Meeting, in-person, on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. On that day, there will be an abbreviated single worship service at 9:00 a.m., which will lead directly into the annual meeting, which will begin at approximately 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary. Sunday School that day will be a pajama party starting at 9:00 a.m. through the conclusion of the meeting. Please plan on being in attendance on that day as we affirm the work of the church in 2022 and bless the work that will transpire in 2023. At the conclusion of the meeting, approximately 10:30 a.m., everyone is welcome to a special celebratory fellowship, where we give thanks. The Annual Meeting booklet will be available for your perusal the Sunday prior, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the church if you have any questions.

## **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](http://www.nglsynod.org).

To view Bishop Finegan's and Assistant to the Bishop Duehring's January 2023 newsletter articles, they can be found at [www.nglsynod/newsletters-articles](http://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](mailto:ngls@nglsynod.org) and request to be put on the mailing list.



With the beginning of a new year, we like to make resolutions or renew things in our lives. One thing we could all improve on is our prayer life. We live in a digital age and are constantly in touch with family and friends through social media, text messages, and video chats. With prayer, we have 24/7 access to the one who created and saves us. Prayer is a powerful way to deepen our relationship with God and grow our faith.

Anyone can pray, even little children. But, kids and even adults can often use some pointers about connecting with God. Jesus' disciples needed help learning to pray too! Here are a few tips for helping your kids develop their prayer lives.

- Make prayer a regular part of your home life—and not just at meals and bedtime. Turn to prayer as the first resort, not the last. And let your kids hear you pray.
- Share with your kids how you see God at work through your prayers. Keep a journal or list of answers you receive and other ways God speaks to you.
- Pray as a family, but also encourage your children to set aside time to pray on their own.
- Use acronyms as reminders of how to pray, such as **PRAY**:
  - Praise:** Praise God for something you are thankful for.
  - Repent:** Say you are sorry doing wrong things. Ask God to help you follow Jesus.
  - Ask:** Ask God for something you need or ask God to help someone you know.
  - Yield:** Listen to God and let God guide you.

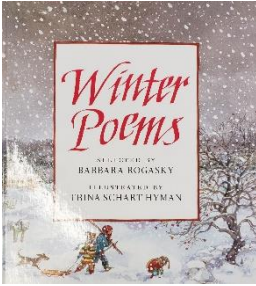
Reminder, ask God....

To help you model prayer in your home.

To show our kids that prayer is more than just requests, it requires listening as well. And, when answers to prayer don't come right away – keep listening!

May God bless you and your family with a happy and healthy new year!

Patti Treptow  
Director of Youth & Family Ministry



## Children's Library "Book of the Month"

This month's book is "Winter Poems". It is a collection of poems selected by Barbara Rogasky and illustrated beautifully by Trina Schart Hyman that celebrates the beauty and joy of the winter season.

You may check out this and many other books in our children's library which is located at the end of the Sunday school hallway.

## Sunday School Classes resume January 8<sup>th</sup>



### January 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Because of the Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday school and worship is being moved to 9:00 a.m. with the annual meeting to immediately follow. During this time, our

Little Lutherans Youth Committee will be hosting a pajama party in the Fellowship Hall for all of our Sunday school children. Wear your favorite pj's and bring a blanket and a pillow. We will enjoy snacks, games and a movie! On this Sunday, we will not have a children's sermon so your child may go directly to the party downstairs.







# children's program





### **Upcoming Classes**

January 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>rd</sup>  
11:00 am - 12:30 pm



### **GLOW Youth Group**

Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>  
6:00-7:30 p.m.

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



### ***Ignite Afterschool Program at Emmanuel***

7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth  
Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
In the Fellowship Hall  
All community youth are invited!

## **ADULT MINISTRIES**

### ***Care & Share Alzheimer's Support***

Wednesdays, 4:30-6:00 p.m.  
A support group for caregivers of loved ones with  
Alzheimer's and other dementias.

### ***Gentle Yoga at Emmanuel***

Classes resume, January 3<sup>rd</sup>  
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. Dress comfortably and bring a yoga mat. Classes are \$5.00 per session.

### ***Emmanuel Women's Group***

First Thursday of each month at 1:00 p.m.  
Join us in the Friendship room for Bible study and fellowship.  
Our next meeting will be February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

# Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who helped decorate our church for Christmas. Our church is beautiful! Thank you to those who participated in our outreach projects - those who rang bells for Salvation Army, baked cookies for the bake sale, those who purchased cookies from the bake sale, those who provided Christmas gifts for our Tree of Love, and those who donated to our food drive and helped deliver everything to where it needed to be - know that you helped to bring joy and love to those less fortunate in our community. God bless you for doing God's work and showing His love to those less fortunate.

Here are a few pics of the fun we all had preparing for Christmas and decorating our beautiful church! Please note that not everyone who helped with our projects are shown in these photos.







## Christ's Kaleidoscope Challenge

### What is "Christ's Kaleidoscope?"



It is a new group of Northern Great Lakes Synod people who are passionate about leading our Synod's efforts to see others through the eyes of Jesus. The **Kaleidoscope Challenge** for Lent 2023 focuses on resources that educate and deepen cultural competency regarding

racial equity, our indigenous neighbors, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

For the Challenge, each week participants listen, read, and watch various resources to engage the subject matter. Then, you are invited to a weekly discussion to process your experience of these resources with a zoom cohort of your choosing. A variety of facilitators, days, and times will be available.

The Year 2023 begins a year when we focus on **Love**. This Lenten Kaleidoscope Challenge puts love into action as we make the effort to see others more clearly. The goal is greater awareness and deeper understanding.

### Christ's Kaleidoscope Challenge Schedule

Coming soon!

#### When does the Challenge take place?

The Challenge begins February 23 and runs through April 3.

#### What do I need to do?

Each participant will access the Challenge material here on our website and be encouraged, but not required, to join a cohort that will meet weekly for conversation via Zoom.

#### How much does it cost?

Participating in the Racial Equity Challenge is free to all participants!

#### When do the cohorts meet?

More information coming soon on the website! [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org)



## **AARP REAL POSSIBILITIES AT EMMANUEL**

Emmanuel Lutheran will again be an AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program Site. The AARP Tax-Aide Program works with Seniors, Families, and Individuals to complete their Individual Tax Returns. **There is no cost for this service.** The Tax-Aide Group members accurately complete tax returns for as many Individuals as they can, but there are Individual Returns that are Out Of Scope for the skills of the group members and the rules for the Tax-Aide Program set by the IRS and Tax-Aide Foundation.

The program starts February 7 at Emmanuel and will be held on Tuesday and Thursdays. You may call the church office to make an appointment.

# Worship Assistant Schedule – January 2023

## **January 1**

Ushers Jim Briar, Denise Ruleau

Reader Denise Ruleau

Communion Randy Demeuse,

## **January 8**

Ushers Dennis & Rosie  
Draska

## **10:00**

Glen Magrane  
Chris Nelson

Readers Sue Larson

Ivon Butman

## **January 15**

Ushers Matt Vanni  
Ann Koehler

Jeff & Amy Lenca

Readers Jim Briar

Judy Gleisner

Communion Jim Briar

Sylvia Blom, Betty Kohrt  
Judy Gleisner

## **January 22**

Ushers Cathy Hipke  
Cindy Smith

Ron & Gerrie Tupper

Readers Cathy Hipke

Colleen Baribeau

## **January 29** **9:00 one service followed by Annual Meeting**

Ushers Bill & Connie  
Tacolini

Readers Connie Tacolini

Communion John Wills, Terrie Porras  
Al Rasmussen

# 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:

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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:

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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