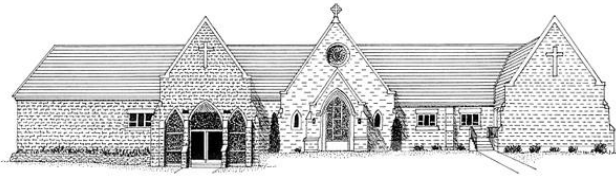


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan

JUNE

2023



Happy Father's Day

Direct your children onto the right path,
and when they are older, they will not leave it.

PROVERBS 22:6

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

—Psalm 121

Where do you look to find help? The Psalmist begins by looking up towards the hills. Have you looked towards the hills for help: for what might be coming over the hill? Searching the skyline for the needed car or person coming into sight? The temptation is to look at the horizon for help, direction, or guidance and to forget to look further. The Psalmist counters this kind of thinking: *“My help comes from the LORD, who MADE heaven and earth.”* In other words, it is not the hills that provide help, but the one who MADE the hills who provides the help. In fact, our Helper made more than just the hills. Our Helper made both heaven and earth! It is to that One whom we look for help.

What is the result of relying on the Lord? We have a Helper who never sleeps or gets bored and drifts away. We have a Protector who watches over us in this life and into the next life. We have a Keeper who guards us from evil and holds our souls in the depths of his Being. The Lord guards us from evil spirits and keeps our feet on the right path. The Lord, who created everything that is, walks with us.

Do you find comfort in the words of the Psalm? They are meant to give comfort and courage. We face many difficulties in life. We have pain and sorrow. We struggle with the heartbreak of unexpected death, especially when it comes too soon. We face the fear of job loss or catastrophe. We encounter troubles in our home life, our neighborhoods, and our schools. We worry about our medical condition and those of the people for whom we care. Sometimes we live with ease and joy. Sometimes we live in strife and grief.

Yet, through it all God walks with us, guiding us, shielding us, watching over us. Nothing can take God from us or us from God—NOT EVEN DEATH! Certainly, nothing in this world can wrench God from us, even though it may feel like it sometimes.

How does Psalm 121 effect our lives? We are encouraged to remember that God remains with us even when it may feel that we are lost. Coming through our struggles with the help of God and the Church community can strengthen us, embolden us, and grow us in compassion for others. We become resilient rather than wallowing in our woes. We connect with God to receive strength. We connect with others to both give and receive strength.

Psalm 121 beckons us to take our walk with God seriously. We are encouraged to call on God more readily and more often as we grow in the confidence of God's presence in our lives. New horizons may open to us if we take the time and make the intention to connect with God (**prayer**) in our questions and doubts, as well as our thanksgivings and joy.

Here are some common questions or issues in which we may want to seriously, intentionally, and ***persistently*** seek God (**pray**), instead of only looking "to the hills":

- What should we do as a church to grow?
- How can I best navigate my medical condition or chronic pain?
- How can I begin to heal from my hatred for a person in my life?
- How can I better deal with the anger inside of me and release it in unabusive ways?
- How can I find healing from my addiction to ... ?
- What do I need to do and refrain from doing to keep my relationships healthy?

Our help, my friends, comes not only from the hills, but from the One who made the hills and everything else in existence! The Psalmist encourages us to both recognize this gift and to seek God because of it. Seek the Lord. Know that God watches over you both here and into eternity.

Blessings to you always in the name of the One who made the hills.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Christine

Pastor's Day Off – Friday

Pastor Christine takes Friday as her day off, unless extra-ordinary circumstances (*i.e.—a funeral, wedding, Synod Assembly, etc.*) cause a schedule change. The pastor will respond to communications made on Fridays at a later time, unless it is an emergency. ***The pastor will respond to emergencies as soon as possible, no matter the day or time.***



School may be coming to an end, but the busyness of summer is just beginning. From vacation travels, to day trips, to traveling to sporting events or practices, a lot of time will be spent in the car. Why not use some of that car-time to look for God! Road trip God sightings are a great way for families to have faith conversations and they are fun for kids!

As you hit the road this summer, encourage your kids to look for God Sightings. These sightings can be anything from seeing someone helping another, someone helping you, or another type of kindness. Encourage kids to look for something in God's amazing natural world such as a unique cloud formation, a specific bird, flower or animal. While driving or at the end of your day, share together the wonderful God Sightings you and your children had that day and thank God for all the wonderful ways he made us and our world.

Encouraging all family members to participate in this activity reveals that no matter what age you are, you can see God working. It is very powerful for children to see God in all the places we may travel, and this helps kids to know that God is everywhere and that they are never alone.

Enjoy the summer and look for God Sightings where ever you go!

Patti Treptow
Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Youth Ministries

5th Grade First Communion

We welcomed two more 5th grade students to the Lord's Table. Jereson Camps and Daly Butler took their first Holy Communion on May 7th.





Sunday School

Our Sunday school program has come to an end for the year. We thank the following teaching staff for a wonderful year of growing in faith!

PreK-1st grade: Ava Slawinski and Rachel Magrane.

2-4th grade: Margaret Miller, 5th-6th grade: Patti Treptow, Monthly Bible Story Sunday: Patti Treptow, Sharon Ayers, Bobbi Rod, and Kara Barley. We ended our program year with a party at Menominee's Water Tower Park. Thank you, teachers and Little Lutherans Youth Committee, for a fun event!

Sunday School End of the Year Party!





8th Grade Faith Statement Presentations and Family Luncheon

On Sunday, May 21st, our 8th grade confirmation students presented their faith statement projects to their class and families. Following the presentation, we enjoyed a luncheon to celebrate their faith journey. Our current 8th grade students will affirm their baptism and be confirmed when they enter 9th grade this fall. The Rite of Confirmation will be held on Reformation Sunday, October 29th during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.





GLOW Youth Group

7th-12th grade

June 7th - 6:00-7:30 p.m.

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



Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 4th

Emmanuel's high school graduates will be honored at our "Graduation Recognition" during the 9:00 a.m. worship service on June 4th. A cake and punch reception will follow. The Carl and Marian Johnson Memorial Scholarship awards will also be presented by Pastor Cheryl Johnson during worship. Congratulations to the follow graduates:

*Emma Aichner Beau Anders Brenna Barrette Marisa Camps
Gavin Hansen Avery Johnson Rachel Magrane Matthew Mellingner
Ava Slawinski Kaden Starzynski Olivia Stewart*



Vacation Bible School

July 18th, 19th, & 20th

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Kindergarten - 5th grade

Students 6th grade and older are
welcome to serve as crew & station helpers!

More information and registration forms will be sent out next month....watch your mail!

At "Pets Unleashed" VBS, kids will learn that Jesus cares "fur" you! Our VBS is filled with fun Bible-learning experiences, team building games, cool Bible songs, fun creative crafts and yummy snacks!

A letter with more details on our VBS program and a registration form will be mailed out mid-June. Registration forms are also available on our website and in the church office. Save the dates so you don't miss out on the fun!

Deadline to register is Monday, July 2nd.



Adult Ministries

Summer Bible Studies:

Lunchtime Illumination:

**Tuesdays from 12:10—12:50pm, starting on June 6
"Journeys Through God's Word: REVELATION"**

What truth does Revelation provide for the future? Learn the meaning of the symbols. Experience comfort in the words. Find answers to many of the questions people ask. Join us on Tuesdays during your lunch hour this summer to explore the mysteries of the final book in the Bible. Bring a bagged lunch or takeout and meet in the Fellowship Hall to learn together.

The study is digital and downloadable. Tell the pastor that you plan on coming to the study and she'll email you a copy.

Evening Enlightenment:

**Mondays from 6:00-7pm, June 19 through August 7
"GRACE—More than We Deserve, Greater than We
Imagine" by Max Lucado**

Grace. We talk as though we understand the term. The bank gives us a grace period. The seedy politician falls from grace. Musicians speak of a grace note. We describe an actress as gracious, a dancer as graceful. We use the word for hospitals, baby girls, kings, and premeal prayers. We talk as though we know what grace means. But bestselling author Max Lucado says we've settled for a wimpy grace, a goldfish grace that sits in a bowl on the shelf and never causes trouble or demands a response.

This study uses Max Lucado's book and study book. You can purchase them online or sign up and the pastor will order copies.

Prayer Groups

Weekly: Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Monthly: Third Tuesday at 6 p.m. (next on June 20th)

Come together with other faithful brothers and sisters in Christ to join in prayer for our community, church, and those in need of healing. *There will be no pressure to pray out loud.* Verbal and silent pray-ers are appreciated.

Emmanuel Women's Group

The women's group will not be meeting during the summer. Our group will resume on Thursday, October 5th at 1:00 p.m.

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.

Yoga at Emmanuel

Tuesdays, 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Join us for this wonderful exercise taught by Sally VanEyck, certified yoga instructor. All abilities are welcome.

Dress comfortably, bring a yoga mat and water.

Classes are \$5.00 per session.



Join us for coffee and conversation in the narthex 8:30—9am.



Flower Chart

If you would like to have flowers on the chancel in honor or in memory of someone, please sign the Flower Chart by church office. There are envelopes at the base of the chart to put your name, date of when you would like flowers and what you would like printed in Sunday Bulletin.

The cost is \$30.00 for the 2 vases of flowers.

We need your information!

**Current address, cell phone/landline numbers
and email addresses**

We are trying to update our church directory so that when things come up we can send information out quickly to our congregation. This would include such things as announcing special events at the church or cancelations such as services due to bad weather, etc.

Please call or email the church office.

The church email is mail@e-mmanuel.com



We have new groups starting at Emmanuel where you can serve God while serving others. Read about these new groups here:

Caring for the Saints Team

We are forming a Visitation Team for the purpose of Visiting the Homebound and Care Home Members of our congregation and we need your help! If you have the ability to listen and to make 1-2 visits a month, you can serve on this vital and important team. Visiting the saints—our brothers and sisters in Christ—is an extremely important task of the church. It helps the church remain connected, even as physical issues get in the way. It brings hope and light to the most vulnerable among us. It also helps the pastor with her/his work. You can go by yourself or be teamed up with someone else to go out on your visits. The pastor will train you and support you in this ministry. We are looking for ten to twenty people to join this team. **Please text, call, email, or stop by to see the pastor with questions or to sign up.**

Helping Hands Team

Are you a “hands-on” person? Are you handy around the house or yard? Do you love to share Christ’s love with others by doing helpful and useful tasks? **We are forming a team of people with Helping Hands! This ministry is an expression of God’s love to Emmanuel’s elderly, disabled, and single parents through the helping hands of the body of believers from our congregation.** Our goal is two-fold. First, to assist members of the church who cannot complete tasks around the house or yard that require only a helping hand. Second, is to allow church members who wish to express the love of Christ through physical action an opportunity to serve. **With questions or to sign up, please contact Pastor Christine or Patti Treptow.**

Is Jesus making a difference in your life?

“What difference does Jesus make in your life?”

Can you answer this question? In order to grow the church, we MUST be able to answer this question for our own faith and in order to share God with others. The answer is personal in the sense that it will be different for each of us, but it is also universal in that it can be relatable and shared. You need to find your own answer. The sermon on May 21 offered some places to start the thought process. *Check out that sermon on our website or our Facebook page.* Here are the “notes” from it:

Jesus:

- 1) Gives us clarity to see the truth when the world lies to us.

Lies of the world — your value is tied to what you produce or how you look or what you have; death can be avoided; we can save ourselves

- 2) Gives us a lifeline to God in the midst of our sinfulness when the devil lies to us.

Lies of the devil — your mistakes/sin make God turn away from you; God doesn't care; you are beyond redemption

- 3) Walks with us in pain and trouble in our lives, especially when our feelings or self-criticisms lie to us.

Lies of our feelings — tough times are God's punishment and good times are God's reward; we are alone in our pain

- 4) Gives us hope and joy that is not dependent on our circumstances and gives us the “Peace that goes beyond logic”.

- 5) Shows us who God really is, as Someone who loves, shows mercy, has compassion, and forgives (and how God also wants us to be in the world).

What do you think about a Meatball Supper?



Do you think we should host a Meatball Supper this fall at Emmanuel?

Do you think it could be valuable to our congregation and our community?

If so, we need your help!

We need a team of people who are willing to plan and organize the meal, including 1-2 people to head up the team.

If you want to help with this endeavor, contact the church office ASAP.

Talk to a Congregational Council Member for more information.

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 newsletter articles, they can be found at www.nglsynod/newsletters-articles.

From the 2023 Synod Assembly: May 18-20

On the next couple of pages are a few pictures of Synod Assembly, held last month in Marquette. We are thankful that **Deb Villas, Jeanette Lawton, and Dave Johnson** represented Emmanuel at the Assembly. We were also delighted to have **Kathy Bero** there because of her work with one of the Synod's ministry teams. Ask any of these sisters or brother in Christ about the event. Enjoy the glimpse!





Synod Endowment Ministry

What is the purpose of the NGLS Endowment Ministry?

The Synod Endowment Ministry enables individuals and congregations make lasting gifts to the mission of the Church, apart from the general operation of the Synod. The Northern Great Lakes Endowment includes three funds, each dedicated to support its own ministry focus.



What is the Answer the Call Campaign?

Every congregation in the Northern Great Lakes Synod is invited to dedicate a day to receive offerings in worship to “Answer the Call”. These gifts are divided between the Fund for Leaders for Seminarian scholarships and the Clergy Debt Relief Endowment. In this way, our Synod congregations answer the call to support rostered leaders before, during, and after they answer the call the ministry.

Be a Part of the Synod Endowment Ministry

If you wish to make a gift to the Endowment Ministry of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, contact any of the following Synod staff or make an online donation on the Synod website.

Bishop Katherine Finegan or Betsy Koski, Bookkeeper
(906) 228-2300 -- npls@nplsynod.org

Worship Assistant Schedule – June 2023

June 4

9:00

Ushers	Denise Ruleau, Nancy McDonald
Reader	Deb Villas
Communion	Greta Hodge, Debbie Lemery, Kim Schroeder

June 11

Ushers	Tom & Bonnie Strohl
Readers	Cathy Hipke

June 18

Ushers	Jim & Betti Jensen
Readers	Matt Vanni
Communion	Terrie Porras, Judy Gleisner,

June 25

Ushers	Gary & Robin Gustafson
Reader	Robin Gustafson



Our brother in Christ, **Ron Fischer**, passed away on May 9, at home. Ron's funeral service was held at Emmanuel, May 13. Our sympathy goes out to his family. May all who mourn Ron's death be filled with the hope and promise of being reunited with Ron in the resurrection to eternal life.

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EMMANUEL

9:00 a.m. in person
for the summer schedule
Online Worship 9:00 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. Christine Olson

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