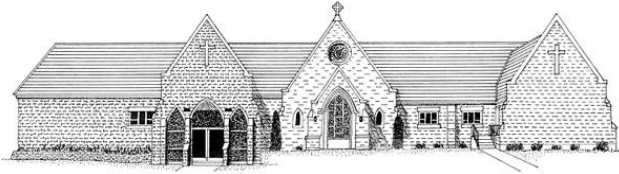


# THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Menominee, Michigan

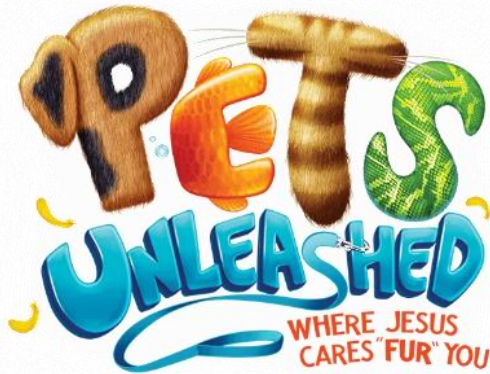
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JULY

2023

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## Emmanuel's Vacation Bible School



July 18, 19, 20  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Happy are those  
    who do not follow the advice of the wicked  
or take the path that sinners tread  
    or sit in the seat of scoffers,  
but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
    and on his law they meditate day and night.  
They are like trees  
    planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
    and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so  
    but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment  
    nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,  
for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
    but the way of the wicked will perish.

—*Psalm 1 NRSVUE*

As the weather turns hot in July, I feel like I wither, which calls to mind Psalm 1. The Psalm equates trees planted by streams of water to those who delight in the law of the Lord. Trees planted without a good water source can wither in the summer heat. Likewise, the faithful who are not connected to God's word can wither when things heat up. God's word is a source of sustenance and refreshment for the faithful. More than that: it is necessary for life!

The wicked, on the other hand, are like the unusable fluff of viable plants that gets scattered and blown away on the wind. In my mind's eye, I can see the chaff scattering with the wind: useless, lost, forgotten. Ignoring God's word and God's way, the Psalmist warns, can lead to such a fate.

The remedy? Take some time to connect with God's word this summer. Sign up online for a daily dose of scripture, look at the Daily Lectionary, or use a devotional to connect with God's word. Even a few minutes a day in the Word can strengthen your faith and orient your heart and mind towards God. Be like a tree planted by a stream of water this summer! If you need help finding a resource to use, please contact your pastor.

Blessings to you always in the name of the One who sustains us.

*Pastor Christine*



Ah, July! School is out, the weather is warm, and it's time to relax! But, too soon, some may hear....Mom, Dad, I'm bored! Or possibly hearing more frequently the crying and whining of sibling rivalries. Summer may find you pulling your hair out trying to keep the peace in the family. It is little wonder that parents look forward to when school starts again.

Family peace and unity can be difficult during the summer months. Summer tends to have more down time, which leads to boredom and boredom can lead to bickering. At the time kids are having more down time, parents do not. Adding to the stress of enduring bored kiddos, parents still need to work and maintain the household during summer break, and this adds to the stress and tension in family unity.

Family unity can be a challenge to put into practice during the summer, but it is during this hectic time that we have an awesome opportunity to learn about each other's needs and find ways to strengthen bonds with one and another. Take a breath and try these few tips:

**Pray for each other** – Lifting up a family member in prayer makes it difficult to stay angry at them.

**Serve one another** – Challenge siblings to perform one act of kindness for each other every day.

**Hold family meetings** – Check in with each other before issues get too big. Help younger children to talk (and hug!) out problems as they arise.

**Praise positive behavior** – Praise is a simple action that reaps huge benefits in affirming appropriate behavior.

**Don't solve children's disagreements** – for them, but don't let conflicts escalate to physical violence.

**If necessary, separate siblings for a while** – That can make them eager to play with one another again.

Remember that conflicts and challenges are opportunities for learning. Teaching our children how to solve differences, appreciate other's needs while acknowledging their own, helps them build tools for creating solid relationships, which in turn is important in developing family unity and eventually community outside of the family. Children will learn to open up and trust others to help them make their way through life. This foundation of community is what God intends for us. It is the basic principle of the body of Christ at work.

***Make me truly happy by agreeing whole heartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Philippians 2:2***

May you and your family grow in God's love this summer.

Patti Treptow  
Director of Youth & Family Ministry

# Youth Ministries



**GLOW Youth Group** 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade

Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> - 6:00-7:30 p.m.

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

## Graduate Recognition



Emmanuel's high school graduates were honored at our "Graduation Recognition" during the 9:00 a.m. worship service on June 4<sup>th</sup>. The Carl and Marian Johnson Memorial Scholarship awards were presented to Rachel Magrane and Matthew Mellinger. Our graduates who

were able to attend this special recognition were Marisa Camps, Gavin Hansen, Rachel Magrane, and Matthew Mellinger. God's blessings to you as you embark on the path God has intended for you.



Pastor Christine, Rachel Magrane, Matt Mellinger, Gavin Hansen, and Marisa Camps.



Matt, Pastor Cheri, Rachel



## Vacation Bible School

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, & 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday-Thursday)

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

Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

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

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!

On our last day of VBS at 11:30 am, you are invited to hear our children sing the songs they learned and watch a special presentation by the Tri-County Dog Training Academy. We will also be collecting items for our local animal shelter - more information will be in the church narthex on the collection.

VBS Registration forms are available on our website and in the church office. Email Patti at [ptreptow@e-mmanuel.com](mailto:ptreptow@e-mmanuel.com) for more information.

**Deadline to register is Sunday, July 2nd.**



# VBS Kids need your help!

## We are collecting items for the Menominee Animal Shelter.

Items needed: Kitten food – dry & canned, Adult cat & dog food – canned & dry. Cleaning supplies – Dawn dish soap, vinegar, washing detergent, dryer sheets, toweling, and garbage bags of all sizes.

*Items are collected in the narthex until July 20th – look for the red wagon!*

**THANK YOU!**



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## Adult Ministries

### **Prayer Group**

**Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.**

Come together to join in prayer for our community, church, and those in need of healing. *There will be no pressure for you to pray out loud.*

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

Our group will resume on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 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 on 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.*

### **Summer Bible Studies:**

#### ***Lunchtime Illumination:***

Tuesdays from 12:05—12:55 p.m., all summer

*"Journeys Through God's Word: REVELATION"*

#### ***Evening Enlightenment:***

Mondays from 6:00-7 p.m., through August 7

*"GRACE—More than We Deserve, Greater than We Imagine"*



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 need 2-3 more people to complete our Visitors Team! Talk to Pastor Christine if you're willing.***

### **Visitors Needed**

We need THREE TYPES of visitors:

- 1) People who simply want to chat, catch up, and share news.
- 2) People willing to chat and read Scripture and pray.
- 3) People to chat a little bit, read scripture, pray, and bring the Holy Communion.



**Please talk with Pastor Christine if you can make at least one visit a month, and we'll form a team. Please keep an open heart and mind to this ministry if the pastor approaches you about serving.**

## **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.**

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## **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.

*Please call or email the church office:*

The church email is [mail@e-mmanuel.com](mailto:mail@e-mmanuel.com)

# Meet your Faithful Innovations Team!



*Jeremy Ronda Gail Debbie Kathy Robin Terrie Pastor  
Camps Pedersen Sieglaff Villas Bero Gustafson Porras Christine*

Our church is beginning the process of looking at our future. *What is God calling us to be and do in our community in this present age?* A part of that work is listening: to God, to the church, and to the community. Above, you can see the members of our church who are being trained in this process through *Faithful Innovations* workshops. They will start us on this path. **They will be joined on the Visioning Team by Karen Hines, Chris Nelson, Ken & Linda O'Brien, Al Rasmussen, and Dan Roetzer.** *Please keep the Faithful Innovations Team and the larger Visioning Team in your prayers.*

## **First Step of the Faithful Innovations Team**

**Our team wants to hear from YOU!** In the next two months, we will be seeking ways to hear your story. We are trying to practice talking about God in our everyday lives: how to listen to each other and what we might learn about God in the process. So, we're asking people in our congregation a few questions about their spiritual lives. There are no right or wrong answers. It is all about your experience. **We will be setting up a space before and after worship on a few Sundays to hear from those who wish to share. We will also be creating a form for those who would like to share through the written word.**

Here are some questions for you to think about for this process:

- Share about a time when you grew spiritually in a significant way. What was happening in that period of your life?
- What do you think God might have been trying to teach you or show you during that time in your life?
- Where do you experience God's presence most often now? (*i.e.: in worship, in nature, in conversation, in prayer, by music, etc.*)

# ***Have you ever wondered about prayer?***

Have you wondered if you're praying the right way? Or why God doesn't answer your prayers? Are you confused when people talk about "hearing God" or "following the Spirit"? Do you long to be closer to God and to feel more confident in your prayer?

Pastor Christine is offering a Prayer Class, at different times and places, starting this Fall, to help those interested to learn more about prayer, discover different ways and methods of praying, and become more experienced in connecting with God in prayer.

**To let you know more about the class, let us first discuss what it is NOT.**

- 1) The prayer class is NOT about praying out loud together in a group. *In fact, we will not explore this kind of prayer in the class.*
- 2) The prayer class is NOT a prayer group. We will not be praying together for the sick, etc. *Prayer groups are wonderful and powerful, but this prayer class is different.*
- 3) The prayer class is NOT a spiritual competition. We will not be comparing ourselves to others or striving to be different than we are. *We will learn, instead, to approach God and receive from God just as we are.*

**Now that we know some of the "NOTS", here is some of what we WILL be doing in the Prayer Class.**

- 1) We WILL expand our definition of the word "Prayer" as we learn different ways of praying.
- 2) We WILL learn that prayer is both speech and listening as we gain understanding of different methods of that include reflection, gratitude, visioning, taking Scripture into our hearts, intentionally bringing prayer into



everyday life, learning to recognize when the Spirit speaks, and other methods of prayer.

- 3) We WILL share our struggles and our joys with each other in the class, finding support and encouragement among each other for the journey.

Pastor Christine started her own journey of a deeper prayer life in 2012 after reading a book that opened her eyes to the possibilities and need of “listening prayer” in the life of the faithful person. “Listening prayer” is what it sounds like—*it is learning how to better listen to God*. **We are taught that prayer is about our own words: telling God our needs and giving thanks to God for our joys.** And, that is, indeed, an important kind of prayer! **Yet, we are told very little—and are often very inexperienced—in types of prayer that help us to listen to God, open us up to the movement of God the Holy Spirit, and allow us to more deeply commune with God.** *These types of prayer are the focus of this Prayer Class.*

Pastor Christine has experienced a deeper joy and gratitude in her own life through opening up to God in “listening prayer”. She has also guided other groups through the process and has seen beautiful things happen in the lives of people who take a chance to commit to the class. Some have experienced the more miraculous aspects of the Spirit. Some have grown into glowing depths of trust and nurture in God’s presence. **All** who have fully participated have deepened in faith, wonder, or understanding of God’s great love for them.

**Are you interested? Check out the next two pages of this newsletter and discover more about this Prayer Class opportunity.**

# **Prayer Class Information**

*How can I connect more deeply and more soundly to God?*

*How can I hear God speak?*

*How can I better understand prayer?*

*How can a spiritual practice make my life more wonderful?*

**If you have wondered about any of these questions or have other questions about prayer and spirituality, here is a class for you!**

Pastor Christine has experienced the transformation of personal and shared prayer in her own life and has seen it at work in the lives of others. She wants to share this power with you.

***If you are ready to commit 15 minutes a day to personal prayer and 1 hour a week to a group to grow in depth in your relationship with God, this group is for you!***

**The Prayer Class is being offered this fall**

**at 5 different times:**

**Monday mornings at 10:30 am**

**Monday evenings at 6:00 pm *at Bethel***

**Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 pm**

**Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm**

**VIRTUAL: on Zoom on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm**

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*They all begin the week after Labor Day and go until the first week in December.*

*Each class meeting will last for One Hour.*

**Class size: minimum of 6; max of 12 for each time slot**

This is not a group for “embarrassing acts” or “difficult feats”. In other words, you will not be “put on the spot” to pray in front of people or be required to do headstands.

Being part of the group WILL take commitment, however.

**To participate, all you need is:**

fifteen minutes a day to study at home,  
one hour a week to meet at church or online,  
**an open mind,**  
**a love for God,**  
**a desire to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ,**  
and a willingness to covenant with God and others in  
the group to participate and remain committed,  
*whenever at all possible*, for the 3 months.

*We will learn methods that will expand our definition of prayer.*

*We will grow in faith through a steady practice.*

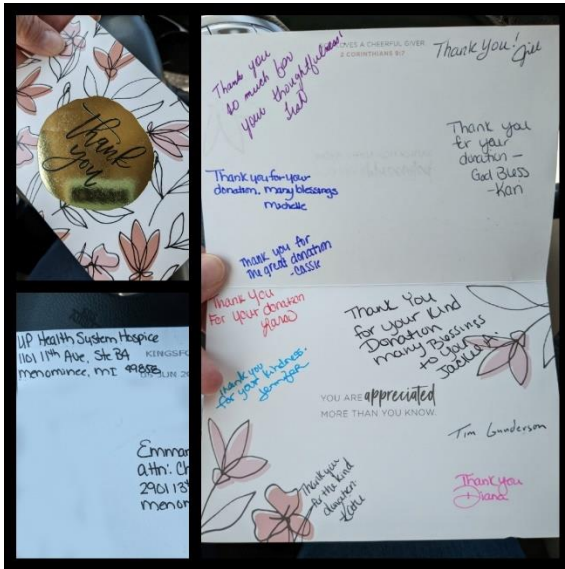
*We will find support in our brothers and sisters in Christ.*

**The commitment to the group is to meet weekly for 11  
sessions between September and December,  
*excepting when you're on vacation or ill,*  
and to pray regularly on your own, using the methods  
taught in the class.**

*Adults and confirmed youth are welcome and invited.*

**Everyone is welcome to sign up for any time slot of the  
class at either church or online.**

***Sign-up information will be coming in August.***



## Thank You from Hospice

At our Good Friday service, we took up an offering for Hospice and collected \$95 for their ministry. We received this lovely card in thanks.

Blessings to you for your generosity and care!

## The Grass need not always be Greener...

Some have noticed that our grass at the church building is the same color as our neighbors' grass and you may be wondering why. *We appreciate your care and your desire to see our church at its best.*

Our irrigation system has become expensive to keep up. We spent a great deal of time and money on it last year, getting multiple repairs totaling more than \$1,000. Even with all of the repair visits, the summer water bill last year was 3x the cost of 2021 and 4x the cost of 2020. We were told this year that the system needs more work, with more costs and repair visits.

With the repair costs, the rising cost of water, and the unreliability of the system, the Council voted to discontinue use of the irrigation system at this time. Some came to that decision because of the costs. Others made that decision to conserve water and to stand in solidarity with our neighbors. But, EVERY decision was made with care for this church and a desire to be responsible with our resources.

It is our desire and hope to continue to bring God's Word and Sacrament to the people, to provide pastoral care, to teach and nurture our children, to create opportunities for Christian fellowship, and to express God's love to our community. The grass does not need to be green to do these things, but we do need resources. We recognize a need to manage our resources of both time and money wisely.

Thank you for your understanding and for your love of God, our Church, and the Work we are called to do.

## Summer Outdoor Worship Dates:



9:00am: July 23

August 27



*10:00am on September 17 at John Henes Park for Rally Day!*



## Children's Books

**Pastor Cheryl Johnson needs your help!** She has a ministry

that gifts books to children, ages 0 to 18. They give away hundreds of books. She has asked us to collect books to share in this ministry. So, clean out your attics! When you're out and about at garage sales this summer, keep an eye out for inexpensive books for kids. Look for a donation box in the narthex soon.



**Jackie Lamoureux** passed away on June 1. Her funeral was held at Thielen Funeral Home on June 8. Please keep her husband and other family in your prayers.

**Susan Nielsen** passed away on June 5. A celebration of her life is planned and will be announced at a later date. Please keep her parents, Richard and Barbara Nielsen, and her children and their families in your prayers.

*Eternal rest grant them, O God, and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

# 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 newsletter articles, they can be found at [www.nglsynod/newsletters-articles](http://www.nglsynod/newsletters-articles)



## Exciting Recognition for Fortune Lake

Fortune Lake is thrilled to share that we have been included in Newsweek's list of best summer camps in America! Help us to spread the word that Fortune Lake is being recognized as one of the best places to get your summer camp experience. According to the article, "Newsweek and Plant-A Insights Group have partnered to determine the 500 best summer camps in the U.S. 'America's Best Summer Camps 2023' recognizes the top summer camps in the United States, categorized by state, based on social media reviews and a comprehensive survey of 15,000 parents." [Visit the Newsweek website](http://www.newsweek.com/rankings/americas-best-summer-camps-2023) to read the article and see the full list of camps.

<http://www.newsweek.com/rankings/americas-best-summer-camps-2023>

## Nature Inspired Fall Wellness Retreat

Fortune Lake is excited to welcome people back **September 15-17 (with optional September 14 add-on)** for our fifth wellness retreat in collaboration with Pam Roose of Inspiring Roots LLC, Nutrition and Yoga! This year we will revisit the theme of "Nature Inspired" to further appreciate the beauty of the nature surrounding Fortune Lake. Go here for more information:

<http://fortunelake.org/event/fall-wellness-retreat/>

## Can you help?

Barb Stankevitz has volunteered to organize the Meatball Supper.



*Thanks, Barb!*



She will need lots of help, especially on the day and the days before. We've gotten some helpers, but we will need more. Please be on the lookout for information as it comes and be ready to jump in where you can!

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### Worship Assistant Schedule – July 2023

#### July 2

9:00

Ushers Cindy Smith, Jim Briar  
Reader Connie Taccolini

#### July 9

Ushers Sally Kudlicki, Sylvia Blom  
Readers Colleen Baribeau

#### July 16

Ushers Bill & Connie Taccolini  
Readers Chris Siem  
Communion Dennis & Chris Siem

#### July 23

Ushers Dennis & Rosie Draska  
Reader Cathy Hipke

#### July 30

Ushers Darrell & Linda Eland  
Reader John Wills  
Communion John Wills, Randy Demeuse

# 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](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

**STAFF:**

*Pastor*

The Rev. Christine Olson

Email: [pastor2901@e-mmanuel.com](mailto: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