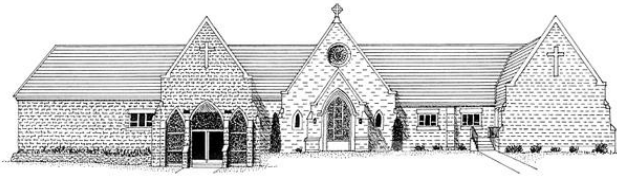


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan

January

2024



God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly,
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,
mindful that our steps make an impact
and our words carry power.

May we walk gently.

May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life, help us enter the New Year reverently,
aware that you have endowed
every creature and plant, every person and habitat
with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness.

May we honor rather than destroy.

Lower of all souls, help us enter the New Year joyfully,
willing to laugh and dance and dream,
remembering our many gifts with thanks
and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your lavish love.

*In this new year, may the grace and peace of Christ bless us now
and in the days ahead.*

In times of trouble, may the LORD answer your cry.

May the name of the God of Jacob keep you safe from all harm.

May he send you help from his sanctuary
and strengthen you from Jerusalem.

May he remember all your gifts
and look favorably on your burnt offerings.

May he grant your heart's desires
and make all your plans succeed.

May we shout for joy when we hear of your victory
and raise a victory banner in the name of our God.

May the LORD answer all your prayers.

Now I know that the LORD rescues his anointed king.

He will answer him from his holy heaven
and rescue him by his great power.

Some nations boast of their chariots and horses,
but we boast in the name of the LORD our God.

Those nations will fall down and collapse,
but we will rise up and stand firm.

Give victory to our king, O LORD!

Answer our cry for help.

—*Psalm 20 NLT*

May the Lord help you in times of trouble and give you success; May the Lord answer your prayers. What a perfect blessing for the New Year given to us by Psalm 20!

The New Year can be an exciting time! It is *liminal* time, in a way—*space between what is known and what is unknown; between what has happened and what will or might happen*. Even though the last day of the old year seems to flow similarly into the first day of the new year, the New Year is still a mystery. In our psyches, *in our hopes*, the beginning of the New Year indeed acts as liminal space. Liminal space is creative space. It is the space of hope and

new possibilities. It is the space of wonderings and fears. New things can blossom in this space. It can be a frightening space because it is unknown—not knowing what will happen is some of what makes us humans most fearful. We do not know what the New Year will hold. It could be good and pleasant or it could be painful and difficult. In actuality, the New Year will hold a mix of both, but in this liminal space we cannot yet see the manifestation of it. At this point, we are uncertain about how to prepare for what the year will hold, so we may pray along with the Psalmist. *Give us help when we need it, O God. Grant us your grace in our work. Answer our prayers and grant us the joy of your presence.*

I invite you to pray Psalm 20 on this New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Pray it for yourself. Pray it for your friends and loved ones. Pray it for the strangers in your life. And, if you are brave enough, pray it for your enemies as well and perhaps they will stop being your enemies this year.

Blessings to you always in the name of the One who holds us close in the liminal space.

Pastor Christine



Carol Sieth passed away on November 30th. Her funeral was held at Emmanuel on December 8. Our sympathy to her daughters, granddaughters, and other family members.

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

Youth Ministries

**Sunday School
Classes resume January 7th**



**January 28th
9:00 – 11:00 AM**

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!



Upcoming Classes

January 7th & 21st
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Report: Sunday School Christmas Program

Thank you, children, parents, teachers and youth.
What a joyful Christmas message!



It was a beautiful service of telling the story of Jesus for all to hear!

Report: Kids Helping Kids

Three totes of kid-friendly food was purchased with the generous proceeds from our Noisy Offering Collection. This food was blessed by the children and will go to three families we adopted in the Menominee school district.

Thank you, Little Lutherans for organizing this wonderful project!



GLOW Youth Group

7th-12th grade

Wednesdays, January 3rd & 17th

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Join us at church for Bible study, food, games and fun.

Bring a friend!





Ignite Creative Arts Afterschool Program

7th - 12th grade youth

Wednesdays 3:30-5:00 p.m.

All community youth are invited!



Report: Band Concert



On December 18th, we hosted part of the Marinette Band for a special concert on behalf of a youth in our congregation, *Brody Nerat*. It was a **WONDERFUL** evening of delightful music and fun. There was a free-will offering for the band for their upcoming trip to Nashville and they were gifted **\$491** by the people in attendance. ***THANK YOU to all who came and gave so generously to these youth in our community!***



Adult Ministries

Yoga at Emmanuel

Tuesdays 5:30-6:00 PM

\$8.00 per class. All abilities welcome for this gentle yoga class.

Prayer Group

Wednesdays, 9:30—10:30 AM

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.*

Care & Share Alzheimer's Support

Wednesdays, 4:00—6 PM

A support group for caregivers of loved ones with Alzheimer's and other dementias is being offered at Emmanuel in the church narthex.

Emmanuel Women's Group

Thursday, January 4th at 1:00 PM

Join us in the Friendship room for Bible study and fellowship.

Sponsorship of the Messenger and weekly bulletin

If you would like to sponsor a monthly publication of the Messenger or a weekly publication of the bulletin in honor or memory of a person or event, *please contact the church office.*

\$125 covers the cost of a Messenger publication and mailing.

\$30 covers the cost of a weekly bulletin.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 28, following worship

There will be ONE worship service on the 28th, at 9:00am.

The meeting will follow that service. Please plan to stay to discuss and vote on important congregational items for 2024.

Fellowship Event

BUNCO is Back and *Better than Ever!*



Thursday, January 25 at 6:00 PM



The Fellowship Team will offer dessert, coffee and some spirits! *(Both a spirited game-time and some wine!)* Bunco is a fun, easy to play, dice rolling game. Works best if we have 12+ players, so invite a friend and come for some fun! **You're invited to bring \$3, if you choose, to help provide the prize.** *Hope to see you there!*

Lenten Bible Study

Tuesdays 10-11am, Feb 20—March 19

Wednesdays 4-5pm, Feb 21—March 20

Pastor Christine is offering a Bible study to edify folks' faith journey during the 5 weeks of the season of Lent. She will offer the same study at the two times listed above. Come on Tuesday morning or come on Wednesday afternoon with an option to stay for the Lenten Soup Supper and worship service.

If you have a subject that you'd love to study, now is the time to speak up! PC is soliciting ideas.

Call the church office to give your idea for the study!



Emmanuel's Outreach Projects

Report: Christmas Gifts Service Project

Thank you to our Outreach Committee for a successful Christmas service project. **Thank you also to everyone who donated to our food drive.**

We were able to fill three full bags for each of the five Rainbow House families that we adopted and the two community families we helped. The extra food went to the St. Vincent DePaul food pantry where our generosity will extend to even more people! Thank you also to those who took a Christmas wish-list for our Rainbow House families.



We also gave poinsettias to our shut-ins this year. **Thank you to those who visited our shut-ins and provided them with some Christmas cheer.** We want them to know that they are loved by their congregation!



Report: Cookie Baking and Bake Sale

Thank you to our youth and adult baking mentors who helped baked and organize our annual Christmas Bake Sale. Proceeds from the sale went toward our outreach projects and youth activities.



Report: Bell Ringing for Salvation Army

What a joyous time we had ringing bells for Salvation Army at Jacks Market in Menominee on Saturday, December 9th. Thank



you to those who gave of their time to raise money to help those in need.



Your Endowment Fund

Did you know that Emmanuel has an Endowment Fund that allows us to share God's blessings with other ministries?

The fund stipulates that 20% of the yearly available amount goes to an international charity, 20% to a national charity, and 20% to a local charity. The remaining 40% is given out each year to one of the first three causes or to entirely other causes, as the Endowment Committee chooses. **You may be pleased to know that the following gifts were given this year on your behalf, as a member of Emmanuel.**

\$2,114.40 to Abundant Life Mission, *a local ministry*

\$1,057.20 to Bridges to Recovery, *a local charity*

\$1,057.20 to the ELCA Domestic Disaster Relief for recovery from the wildfires in Maui, *a national cause*

\$1,057.20 to Compassion International, *an international charity*

Thanks be to God for our ability to help others in this way!

And, thanks to those serving on the Endowment Committee for taking up this charge on our behalf.

Congregational Financial Update

(through Nov 30, 2023)

Your approved 2023 budget amount: \$196,036.00

Amount behind approved budget: \$11,830.40

Total offerings and income received: \$187,037.52

Total expenses: \$212,894.13

Income to expense deficit: \$25,856.61

We give thanks to God for your generosity and care!

***** Check the monthly newsletter for a financial update so that you can be aware, for this is your congregation.***

UPDATE from the Visitation Team

This month some members of our team will be trained in bringing the Holy Communion to our homebound members and members in care homes, to extend the ministry of our team.

We are enjoying getting to know folks! Thank you for your acceptance of our ministry. Please keep us in your prayers.

If you know of someone who could benefit from a visit, please let the Pastor know by calling the church office.

FAITHFUL INNOVATIONS



UPDATE FROM OUR TEAM:

On January 20th our team will attend the third training at **Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp**. *(It was moved by the Synod to this date from the original date in November.)* Following the formal training, we will continue to do “experiments” over the next 6-12 months to help us better see what God is up to in our congregation and community. ***After that, we will be ready to explore with you some possibilities for our future path here at Emmanuel.*** Look for updates in upcoming church newsletters and **please keep us in your prayers.**



December 10 Baptism

Raelyn Grace Salzman, daughter of Joel & Mindy Salzman
with Tim & Cher Salzman as sponsors



Congratulations to Joel & Mindy Salzman who were married
here at Emmanuel on Saturday, December 23, 2023.

Blessings in your new life together!

Financial Statements

If you would like to receive your **end of the year financial statement**, please request one in the church office.

*Sunday, December 31 is the last day that your giving will be
contributed to 2023.*

Northern Great Lakes Synod News

To find out what is happening around our Synod, check
out the Northern Great Lakes Website at

www.nglsynod.org

Thank You to those who helped decorate our space for the Christmas season!

We appreciate you for using your time and strength to enliven our worship experience and lighten our hearts with joy through the beauty of decoration. You are a blessing!



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:

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
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America