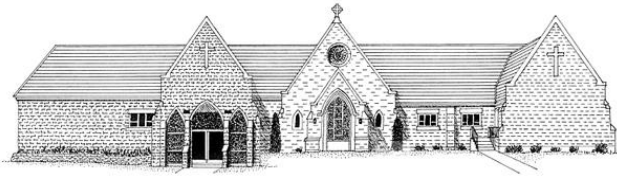


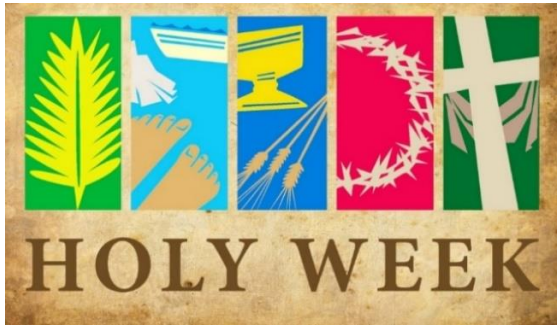
THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan

MARCH

2024



March 24 — Palm Sunday

Worship at 8 & 10 AM

for Children—Palm Procession & Egg Hunt

March 28 — Maundy Thursday

Worship at 10AM & 6PM

First Communion activities 4-6 PM

March 29 — Good Friday

Ecumenical worship 12-3 PM in 30-min segments
at Our Savior's Lutheran in Marinette
and

Worship at 6 PM at Bethel Lutheran

March 31 — Easter

Worship at 8 & 10 AM

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- ¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
- ¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

—*Psalm 51 NRSVUE*

According to tradition, Psalm 51 was written by King David after he committed a series of selfish and irresponsible acts that deeply affected the people around him. (*You can read about it in 2 Samuel, chapters 11 and 12.*) When his fault was pointed out to him by the prophet Nathan, he repented, even though he was the king and the one with power. Then, he wrote this Psalm. He also changed his life and way of doing things, doing his best to return to God's ways. Repentance did that. Repentance gave us this

powerful Psalm that we can all relate to at one time or another in our lives.

In March, we are in the depths of Lent. Lent is a time of repentance (*repentance = to turn around, to turn back towards God, to look in a different direction for happiness*), but Lent is also a time of growth and hope leading to new life. In fact, repentance—*turning back*—is necessary for growth, for how can a person grow if they don't reflect on their life and choices in an honest and wholesome way?

Lent is a time to look at our lives and try and see things as they REALLY ARE as opposed to how we *wish* things were, how the world around us tells us things *should* be, or other unrealistic filters on our sight. It is a time to let go of the ideas, philosophies, and routines that don't truly serve us and begin again fresh. **Lent is spring cleaning for our souls!** We do this through the Lenten disciplines—prayer (*worship, daily devotions, group Bible study, daily personal prayer*), service (*donations or work for others*), and fasting (*giving something meaningful up*). Why? These disciplines aren't meant to punish us or make life difficult. They are meant to lighten our load and free us by getting us back to the truly important things in life. The disciplines help us to reflect on our lives. *Do I really need this or that to be happy?* Fasting can help us decide. *Does God truly love me?* Prayer can help us see God's love more deeply. *How can I have more meaning in my life?* Service helps us understand our value and connection to others.

In Lent, we pray along with King David, ever more deeply: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." It is a time to re-set ourselves so that we can live more joyful and meaningful lives all the time throughout the year.

Blessings to you always in the name of the One who is filled with grace and to whom we turn again during Lent.

— Pastor Christine



Our Lenten journey will soon be coming to an end and we will be looking forward to Holy Week and the celebration of our risen Lord on Easter Sunday.

During these final weeks of Lent, our 5th graders will be receiving instruction in the sacrament of Holy Communion, and on Maundy Thursday they will have their final instruction, participate in a symbolic Seder meal, and participate in worship where they will receive their first Holy Communion with their family.

During Lent, our Confirmation students are engaging in service by setting up, serving, and cleaning up at each of the five weekly Lenten Soup Suppers. Our GLOW youth are attending Lenten mid-week services together on the Wednesday they meet for group. Our Sunday school students are anticipating Palm Sunday and the traditional Palm Procession where they will help us remember the joy and excitement the people had as they waved palms when Jesus entered Jerusalem on the first day of Holy Week. And, all of our young children will enjoy our traditional Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday following Sunday school.

Through the examples of discipleship and joy that our young children and youth show, they remind us that Jesus is with us and that He continues to enter our lives every day. May the remaining days of Lent be meaningful and deepen your faith, and the blessings of Easter bring you and your family great joy.

With God's Blessings,
Patti Treptow

Youth Ministries



First Communion Classes

Sunday, March 3rd

Sunday, March 10th

Sunday, March 17th

Sunday, March 24th

The classes will be held during the same time as Sunday school classes in the conference room located at the end of the office hallway. Students are to go directly to class (not to worship) at 10:00 a.m.

On Maundy Thursday, March 28th starting at 4:00 p.m., the students will participate in final instruction and a communion practice in the sanctuary. This is followed by a symbolic Seder meal in the fellowship hall at 5:00 p.m. involving their families, and then ending with the Maundy Thursday worship service at 6:00 p.m. where the children will receive their first Holy Communion with their family.



Upcoming Classes

March 3rd and 17th

11:00am — 1:00pm

Confirmation Service Activity

Soup suppers and Lenten services will be held each Wednesday evening at Emmanuel, February 21st thru March 20th. Emmanuel's confirmation students will be serving the meal.





GLOW Youth Group

7th-12th grade

Wednesday, March 13th and 27th

6:00-7:30 p.m.

During Lent, we will attend Mid-week Lenten service together and then go downstairs for discussion, food, 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!

Palm Sunday Children's Events at Emmanuel March 24th

Palm Procession



The Sunday school children will be participating in the traditional palm procession on Palm Sunday, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Parents, please leave your children in the narthex at the beginning of worship to prepare for the procession.

Palm Sunday Egg Hunt

All children from toddlers to 6th grade are welcome join in an egg hunt at 11:00 a.m. Please meet in the narthex following worship/Sunday school to start the hunt!



Note, that there will be **no Sunday school on Easter Sunday**, March 31st so our families can worship together for the entire Easter Sunday service.



FORTUNE LAKE

A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

Sumer Camp 2024

Registration for Fortune Lake summer camp is open. We understand that the cost of camp is difficult for some families. Emmanuel does have scholarship funds available. Scholarship applications and more information on camp can be obtained in the church office.



FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP

2024 SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATES	CAMP PROGRAM & AGE/GRADE COMPLETED	COST
Week 1	June 9-14	Victory Camp (Adult 18+ with disabilities)	\$625
Week 2	June 16-21	Intergenerational Week (all ages) New! Treehouse Adventures (Grades 7-12)	See website \$475
Week 3	June 23-28	High School Week (Grades 9-12) LIT Training Week (Grades 10-12)	\$475
	June 30-July 2	Mighty Ones (Grades 1-2)	\$225
Week 4	June 30-July 3	Mini Camp (Grades 2-3) MashUp (Grades 4-8) LIT #1 Option (*No charge)	\$305 No charge
Week 5	July 7-10	*Mini Camp (Grades 2-3)	\$305
Week 5 +Outdoor Week!	July 7-12	^Villager (Grades 3-4) ^Vagabond (Grades 5-6) ^Venturer (Grades 7-8) Camp ACTS (Grades 3-12) LIT #2 Option (*No charge)	\$445 \$475
	Week 6	July 14-17	New! Evergreen Camp (Adults 55+)
Week 7	July 21-26	LEGO® Camp (Grades 3-9) Jr High Night Owl (Grades 6-8) Art Camp (Grades 3-9) LIT #3 Option (*No charge)	\$445 \$475
	July 22-25	Onsite Day Camp (Grades K-5)	\$130
Week 8	July 28-Aug 2	Intergenerational Week (all ages) Vagabond (Grades 5-6) LIT #4 Option (*No charge)	See website \$445
	July 30-Aug 2	Intergenerational Half Week (all ages)	See website
Week 9 ^Water Week!	August 4-7	^Mini Camp (Grades 2-3) ^Villager (Grades 3-4) ^Vagabond (Grades 5-6) ^Venturer (Grades 7-8)	\$305

Scholarships Available

More info at FortuneLake.org

*LIT program requires an application process. Week #1 has a fee; subsequent weeks do not.



"Let the little children come to me ..."

Confirmation Class Update

We are proud of our confirmation students and thankful for the adult helpers that join us when they can! This year, our confirmands have been learning about the basics of Luther's Small Catechism. First, we studied the Ten Commandments. We learned about God's Law and how it works in our lives to remind us of God's way. Then we tackled the Apostles' Creed. We learned about God the Father and Creator, God the Son who is our Redeemer and Lord, and God the Holy Spirit who is our Sustainer and Sanctifier, all of whom make up the Holy Trinity. Now, we are learning about the Lord's Prayer.

For part of our learning on the Apostles' Creed, Patti put together a challenge: she split the creed into small phrases and the confirmands formed two groups to race to put it together first! *Who says learning can't be fun?*



Adult Ministries

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, 3:00—5 PM *(NEW TIME!!)*

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, March 7th at 1:00 PM

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

Yoga at Emmanuel

Tuesdays 5:30—6:00 PM

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

Congregational Financial Update

(through January 31, 2024)

Approved 2023 budgeted offerings: \$21,135.00

Amount ahead approved budget: \$534.00

Total offerings and income received: \$23,011.00

Total expenses: \$17,960.00

Income greater than expense by: \$5,051.00

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.*

If you would like a copy of any month's Council Minutes, you can find them on our website under the "Our Work" tab, then under "Church Council". Or, call the church office and ask for a copy.



Emmanuel's Outreach Projects

SOUPER Bowl of Caring Report



THANK YOU to all who brought soup for the annual Souper Bowl Sunday collection! As you can see from the picture, the cart was overflowing with food because of your generosity and care. The Outreach Team brought the food to St Vincent dePaul for their food shelf to support the vulnerable in our community.

You helped to make a difference by tackling hunger in our community!



Easter Baskets for our Shut-ins



The Outreach Committee will be putting together Easter baskets for our shut-ins. The baskets will contain treats and fun items that will lift the spirits and let our members who can no longer attend our worship services or church activities know that we are thinking of them. The baskets will be delivered during Holy Week.

Community Event

Friday, March 15 at 6:30pm

Resurrection Catholic Church in Menominee

We are invited to join Christians of various denominations for a concert called “Way of the Cross”. Donna Cori is the singer to present this beautiful program. Come to hear the story of Christ in a unique way during this Lenten season. No cost for tickets; *there will be a Freewill Offering collected.*

Update from the Visitation Team

Three members of our visitation team were trained to bring the Holy Communion from the Sunday worship assembly, where the pastor blesses the travel communion along with the other elements, to our members who are home bound or in care homes and cannot join us in worship. Please keep **Betty Kohrt, Jeanette Lawton, and Bill Taccolini** in your prayers as they carry forth the Communion and your greetings from the Assembly to other people. We also give thanks to our other members on the team who regularly make visits:

Carolyn Haglund; Aaron, Bobbi, Travis & Josh Rod; Barb Stankevitz; and Matt Vanni.

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

(Please note that the pastor is also visiting these members and bringing Communion, but cannot make it to all of them every month. The Visit Team helps to supplement, not replace, the pastor’s work.)

Church Council News

Our new Council members—*Brianna Camps, Eileen Beyer, Holly Bayerl, and youth rep Emily Lenca*—attended their first meeting in February. They volunteered to participate in different committees as the council rep. *Terrie Porras* had a powerful start to her term as our Congregational President. We began planning for the year.

Lenten Mid-week Schedule

Wednesdays thru March 20

Soup Suppers at 5:00 PM

Come for fellowship and soup before we go upstairs for worship. This is a truly intergenerational activity. Our confirmation youth will be serving the soup.

Worship at 6:00 PM

Our mid-week theme this year is *Lenten Paths: Walking with Jesus*.

February 21 — Pr Nick Johannes

February 28 — Pr Scott Ehle

March 6 — Pr Christine Olson

March 13 — Pr Keith Kolstad

March 20 — Pr Doug Schoen

Loose offerings from Wednesdays will be given to our local Bridges to Recovery organization.

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 thanks to God or 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.



Easter Choir

Do you like to sing?

Join the choir to sing a song of joyful praise on Easter morning—March 31st!

We will have two practices, one at 6:45 PM on Wednesday, March 20 following the Lenten worship service **and another at 6:00pm on March 27.**

All people, all ages are welcome.



Looking for Pancakes for morning OR evening?

Your Church Council is looking for someone to help support our church by running a Pancake Supper or Breakfast Fundraiser sometime in April.

We wonder if a **group of MEN** in our congregation may want to step forward to organize this event—for great fellowship, fun, and to raise some funds for our ministry?



Please talk to the pastor or a member of Council with questions or if you're willing to step forward.

FAITHFUL INNOVATIONS



What energizes your faith?

Think about a time when your faith grew. What helped it do so?

Your FIT (*Faithful Innovations Team*) is on the move! We met in early February to continue to look at ways we can grow in faith as a church. From that meeting, we have a few requests for you:

- 1) **We want to hear more stories.** Our team members (pictured above) will be reaching out to a few more people this month to hear your stories. Please consider talking with them, if they call you. You may find reflecting on the questions above helpful as you consider it.
- 2) **We need your hobbies and skills!** Do you like to paint, do woodwork, or study the trees, stars, insects, etc.? Do you create your own lures for fishing, teach Tai Chi, quilt, or tie-dye? Do you have another hobby or skill you could share with others in one session, in a several-session class, or in an on-going way? We are looking for people who can help create connections to people both in our congregation and in our community through activities. If you have a hobby you would like to share, please see a member of our team!
- 3) **We want to try and gather our community in unique ways.** We'd like to use our space to gather people together for concerts, performances, and fun nights. If you have ideas for these, please talk to us.

Who knows what God might do with these things if we offer them!

FIT Action Update!

On Tuesday, February 20, your **Faithful Innovations Team** members attended the regularly scheduled Menominee City Council meeting. We went as an experiment, simply to listen and to see what connections we may be able to make with the ministry of Emmanuel to our larger community.

It was time well spent! We had no idea if there would be any information of interest or relevance to us when we went, but God surprised us! We heard from various members of our community and spent some time talking with our new mayor.

Two things mentioned may be especially relevant to us:

- 1) Mayor Hoffman is forming a new committee to look at the mental health and drug abuse issues in our community and what help can be given. As people called by God to bring health and healing to the world, God may reveal a part that we have to play in this initiative.
- 2) The mayor is forming a new Interfaith Committee so that our churches of various denominations can get together and pool our resources, ideas, love, and energy for the good of our community. Mayor Hoffman has already talked with Pastor Christine about serving.

It's amazing how God uses unusual things to speak!

Members of our team will be praying about what we heard until we meet again as a committee on March 21. We hope to gather greater clarity as to where God may be leading us in all of this.

Here are members of our team with Mayor Casey Hoffman, following the meeting:



Did you know...

AARP provides free tax services to our senior citizens and Emmanuel hosts this ministry on Tuesdays from the beginning of February until early April. Members of our community who are skilled in accounting and taxes freely offer their time and talents to serve. Others offer time as greeters and assistants. Many of them donate time every day of the week, Mondays through Thursdays during this time. What a great gift to our community! **From our own church, Jim Zobel and Jeanette Lawton both give of their time and talents to help.** We give thanks to them and to all who so generously give to our community in this way. *We also thank YOU, as a member of Emmanuel Lutheran, for giving so freely of our space for this ministry.* It is a blessing to many.



Fellowship Event **JOIN US FOR LUCKY BUNCO!**

Thursday, March 14 at 6:00 PM

In anticipation of St. Patrick's Day (we are all a little Irish that day, right?) we will be hosting *Lucky Bunco* in the Fellowship Hall at 6 PM. **Wear your lucky green**, and come to have some fun and laughs. **You may bring a \$3 donation**, if you wish, to help provide the prizes, and there will be snacks and wine offered. If you would like to bring another beverage to share, you are welcome to do so. Men and women are both invited and encouraged to come. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex—**don't forget to bring a friend!**



—*The Fellowship Team*

What is Holy Week all about? Here is a simple guide:

Guide to Holy Week



Palm Sunday

Sunday before Easter. Celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Observed with palm branches, parades, and celebration.



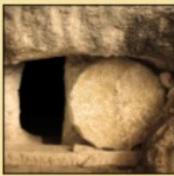
Maunder Thursday

Thursday before Easter. Commemorates the Last Supper. Often observed with foot washing, stripping of the altar, and overnight prayer vigil to keep watch with Jesus in the garden.



Good Friday

Friday before Easter. Most solemn day of the church year. Observes the day Jesus was crucified. Observed by praying the Stations of the Cross and three hours of silent prayer while Jesus was on the cross.



Holy Saturday

Saturday before Easter. Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. This is a day of somber reflection, reflecting on what we'd miss in a world without Jesus.



Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy.

Join us for Holy Week services to find a deeper connection to Jesus in both sorrow and joy. **Dates and times are on the front cover.** *Hope you can join us.*



Do you have Thrivent Financial products?

If so, you may be able to apply for a grant for \$250 to assist us with a church event, activity, or outreach.

Please contact your Thrivent Financial representative or call the church office for assistance.

Thanks.



Theater in our Community

“Waiting for the Parade”

March 28 & 29 at 7:00 PM

March 30 at 2:00 PM

Theater on the Bay, UWGB Marinette

Adults \$15, Children \$10

← QR Code will lead you to ticket sales

Set in Calgary—Alberta, Canada—John Murrell’s award-winning play explores the enormity of the Second World War in ways that speak to all of us about what we do to survive and perhaps to thrive. *Waiting for the Parade* offers a dynamic, rolling pageant of history and memory presented by five women, each of whom in her own way is pragmatic and quietly heroic.

Directed by John Thornberry. Scenic, Projection, and Sound Design by John Thornberry. Lighting Design by Chris Weber. Costume Design by Annalisa Mines

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



BINGO Youth Event in March

Menominee Valley Conference Youth between 6th-12th grade are invited to join residents of the Luther Home in Marinette (831

Pine Beach Road) on **Saturday, March 16 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.** for an afternoon of BINGO, snacks, and fellowship. Please RSVP to Stefanie at youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org.

And be sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

April 19-20 – Jr./Sr. High Retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp; register at fortunelake.org

Scholarships for Menominee Valley Conference Youth are Available!

May 31 – **Light the Fire for Fortune Lake Synod-Wide Campfire** – Details coming soon!

* * * * *

*This month's Messenger is given
in thanks to God*

by Rob & Marc Jamo



All Easter memorials must be received by

Sunday, March 24

*to be included in the Easter Memorial booklet.
Your gifts are greatly appreciated.*

I would like to:

\$_____ Place an Easter Lily in the chancel (\$18.00 each)

\$_____ Emmanuel Maintenance Fund

\$_____ ELCA – World Hunger Appeal

Given _____ In memory of _____

_____ In honor of _____

_____ In thanks to God _____

By _____

Envelope Number _____