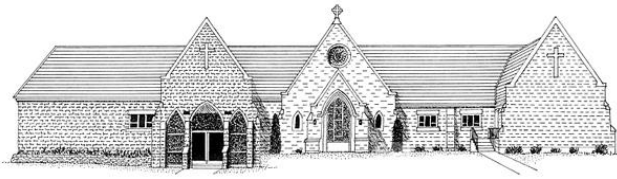


# THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Menominee, Michigan

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**December**

**2023**

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## **December Worship Schedule**

Dec 3 — *1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent*: 8:00 & 10:00 w/Holy Communion

Dec 10 — *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent*: 8:00 & 10:00 Worship

Dec 17 — *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent*:

8:00 Worship w/Holy Communion

10:00 Children's Christmas Play

Dec 24 — *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent*: **9:00 AM** Worship

Dec 24 — *Christmas Eve*:

4:00 PM Family Service

7:00 PM Lessons & Carols with Communion

Dec 25 — *Christmas Day*: **9:00** Worship w/Holy Communion

Dec 31 — *1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas*: **9:00** Worship w/HC

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.  
Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.  
Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.  
Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!  
Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.  
He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.  
All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

—*Psalm 25:1-10 NRSV*

Do you like to wait? Perhaps your first instinct is to answer, “No way!”, yet waiting has some advantages. No one likes to wait in line, but what about other types and times of waiting? Waiting allows desire and anticipation to grow, which can make the thing we wait for even sweeter when it comes. Waiting also teaches us patience and humility, two necessary virtues for living a peaceful and full life. Not being able to get everything we want, right when we want it, teaches us the value of things and of moments.

Waiting also gives us room to prepare. Waiting gives us time and space to make ourselves and our lives ready for the thing that we anticipate. We would not do well with receiving a new baby the moment we found out one was coming, for instance. The months of waiting give us much needed time to prepare for the child's coming in our home and for the changes to our lives and routines needed to accommodate the new arrival. The waiting gives us time for our hearts and souls to wrap themselves around the new reality and it gives us space for joy to grow.

Advent is such a time of waiting. *To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.* We wait, through the liturgy, for a Child—the Christ child. More importantly, we remember during Advent that we are indeed waiting on God. *O my God, in you I trust.* In this life, we have God with us, but God is not fully revealed to us yet. We have already been given salvation, but we have not fully grasped it yet. We have already received Christ, yet we wait to completely and fully know Christ. We continue, in this earthly journey, to learn and develop, growing closer to God in faith throughout it all. We wait for the fullness of God. *Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.*

This Advent, take this time to prepare again for Christ. Add something to your daily or weekly routine that helps you better connect with God and increases your joy: scripture reading, prayer, spending time with someone dear to you, listening to beautiful music, enjoying the winter landscape. Grow closer to God during Advent as we prepare for the Christ Child. *Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.*

Blessings to you always in the name of the One for whom we wait.

*Pastor Christine*

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**Shirley Bailey** passed away on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Her funeral was held at Emmanuel on November 7. Our sympathy to her children and their families.

**Joyce Lindquist** passed away on Thanksgiving Day. Her funeral was held at Emmanuel on November 28. Our sympathy to her husband, Vern, and their children and their families.

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



As we prepare this Advent season, our hearts turn toward the joyous celebration of Christmas. For our church family, this season holds a special significance, reminding us of the profound message of hope, love, joy, and peace that lies at the heart of the Christmas story. Let us remember and teach our children the gift of love that Christmas represents - God's love for humanity that came to us in the humble birth of Jesus in a manger.

In the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations, take a moment to create cherished memories with your family. Attend the special church services, programs, and events. Join in community service projects that embody the spirit of giving. These shared experiences not only deepen faith, but also create lasting bonds within your family.

As we light the candles on the Advent wreath and prepare for Christmas, let our hearts be filled with gratitude for the gift of Jesus. May this Christmas be a time of reflection, renewal, and rejoicing for your family - a season where the hope, love, joy, and peace we share shine brightly, illuminating the world with the true spirit of Christmas.

May you and your family have a most blessed Christmas!

Patti Treptow  
Director of Youth & Family Ministry

# Youth Ministries

## **Sunday School**

The Children's Christmas program preparations have started! Because we have limited practice time, it is important to have your child at Sunday school as much as possible. Here are some important dates this month:



**Program Final Rehearsal and Christmas Party**  
Saturday, December 16th, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Children's Christmas Program**  
Sunday, December 17th during the  
10:00 a.m. worship service. Children need to arrive by  
9:30 and meet in the fellowship hall for costuming.

If you know that your child will not be able to participate in the Christmas program, please let Patti Treptow know as soon as possible so parts can be adjusted.

**Note!** There is no Sunday school on December 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>.



## **Upcoming Classes**

December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
January 7<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

## **Service Activities**

**Cookie baking for the Church bake sale** – Confirmation students will join with the Outreach Committee to bake cookies and other yummy treats on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 noon in the church kitchen.

**Bell Ringing for Salvation Army** – Confirmation students will join with other members of Emmanuel to ring bells on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at Jacks Market in Menominee. Students will have an opportunity to sign up in the narthex for one-hour shifts between 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m.



**GLOW Youth Group**  
7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade  
**Wednesday, December 6th**  
**6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Join us at church for Bible study, food, games and fun.  
**Bring a friend!**

**GLOW Youth Group Christmas Party**  
**Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Bring a \$15.00 gift appropriate for either a girl or boy.  
All youth 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited for a night of food, fun, and exchanging of gifts.



***Ignite Creative Arts***  
**Afterschool Program**

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



  
kids helping kids

Thank you congregation for your generous donations to our noisy kettle collection!

Your donations will go to purchase nutritious, kid-friendly foods for three families in our school district.

Little Lutherans Youth Committee members will help our children create a shopping list during Sunday school on **December 3rd**. Committee members will then shop for the food.

A blessing of the food collected will be done during the children's sermon on **Sunday, December 10th**.

# Adult Ministries

## **Prayer Group**

**Wednesdays, 9:30—10:30 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.*

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

**Wednesdays, 4:00—6 p.m.**

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, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**

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

## **Yoga at Emmanuel**

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

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

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## **Readers & Candle-lighters**

*Pastor Christine is looking for some extra help during Advent and Christmas this year!*

**We need families, couples, or friends to do the lighting of the Advent Wreath for each of the 8:00 and 10:00 services on Dec 3, 10, & 17 AND the 9:00 service on Dec 24.** This involves a few lines of reading and lighting of the candles on the wreath at the appropriate times.

We need people to read at the Christmas Eve services:

At 4:00pm on Christmas Eve, we are having a worship service geared towards children and families. **PC is looking for 6 children or youth to read short scriptures.**

At 7:00pm, we are doing a service of Lessons & Carols, with Communion. **PC is looking for 8 adults or youth to read scriptures.**

## **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.

### ***Welcome to Council...***

**Did you know that all members-in-good-standing of the congregation are welcome to attend Council meetings**, unless the Council is in a closed session (*which is extremely rare*). You could come and see what a meeting is like if you are curious about what it might be like to serve on Council.

***Council meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.***

## **Bell Ringing for Salvation Army!**

***Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>***

***12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.***

### **Jacks Market in Menominee**

Emmanuel will be ringing bells for Salvation Army at Jacks Market in Menominee. We are seeking **members of all ages** to sign up for a shift of ringing and maybe even some singing! A sign-up sheet will be made available in the narthex where you can sign up for one-hour shifts or more. Let's make it a great turnout and show our community Emmanuel cares!







## Emmanuel's Outreach Projects



### Christmas Food/Non-Food Drive

The collection of food and non-food items for the Christmas boxes will take place December 3rd through December 17<sup>th</sup>. The donated items will be given to individuals and families in our community who are in need. This gift will help bring some joy and hope to them at Christmas. Donated goods may be placed in the marked area in the narthex.

**Food items needed:** Canned meats (tuna and chicken), canned dinners, complete meal foods like spaghetti sauce with meat, peanut butter, soups, canned fruits and vegetables, pasta and rice including boxed meals, pancake mixes and syrup, cereal, and juices. Please check expiration dates – we cannot include expired food in the boxes.

**Non-food items needed:** Hand soap, shampoo, paper towels, toilet tissue, dish soap, laundry soap, fabric softener, zip-lock type storage bags of all sizes, and general cleaning supplies. Please note when buying in bulk, items must be individually wrapped.

### Tree of Love

Emmanuel's local Tree of Love will be located in the narthex starting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will be provided with "wish lists" from Rainbow House Domestic Abuse Shelter families that will be attached to an ornament on the tree.

Please keep the wish list, circle the item(s) you have selected to purchase, wrap your gift and attach the wish list to your gift. *You are not expected to purchase everything that is on the recipient's wish list.* Rainbow House receives monetary donations that they will use to supplement any child's wish list within each family so there are a similar number of gifts for the children. Gifts must be brought to the church by Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.





# Christmas Bake Sale

**.....We Need Your Help!**

Our annual Christmas bake sale will be held on  
**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
between worship services.

Our youth along with the Outreach Committee will be baking cookies on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> to sell, but we need your help to make this sale a success! If each person could bake one or two dozen cookies or baked items, we will easily meet our goal.

Proceeds from the bake sale go to support youth and outreach projects.

***Please bring your baked goods for the bake sale to the fellowship hall on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.***



## **Help Decorate for Christmas!**

All members of all ages of Emmanuel are invited to join together on ***Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> or December 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. for the "Hanging of the Greens."*** As a worshipping community, we

will come together to set up and decorate the church Christmas trees and sanctuary. We look forward to seeing you all here!

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### **November 12 Baptism**

***Palmer Frances Bronold***, daughter of Todd & Tate Bronold  
with Jordan & Alesha Boyce as sponsors

# FAITHFUL INNOVATIONS



## UPDATE FROM OUR TEAM:

On January 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## ***Hello, from the Visitation Team!***

Our Visitation Team is active and on the move! We started our work in October, making our first visits. Thank you for your graciousness in receiving our ministry. We are continuing our work this month, each visitor with new people to visit. We are calling our members in their homes to arrange visits and we are dropping in at the Care Homes around our towns. Listen for our calls and watch for our trek up your sidewalk.

*We look forward to getting to know you better!*

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

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## December Youth Event

7TH-12TH GRADE YOUTH ARE INVITED  
TO JOIN US FOR A

# BAKING WITH THE BISHOP

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

COOKIES  
CRAFTS  
GAMES

**10**  
DECEMBER  
AT 3 PM

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1309 14TH AVE. MENOMINEE, MI

RSVP to Stefanie  
[youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org)

## Goings-on

*October and November were active months for Emmanuel.  
Enjoy these highlights:*

**Our Meatball Supper was a wonderful success!**

*Here are some pictures the pastor took early in the event:*



We are thankful for the help, the joy, and the enjoyment of the evening. We had about 150 people come for dinner. Many people commented on our youth—*what a great job they did!* The food was delicious and the fellowship was even better!

Thank you to all who helped in every way.

*A special thank you to Barb Stankevitz for organizing the event.*



Though cold, we had a lot of fun at the Trunk-o-Treat:

*Here are some pictures of this outreach:*



We are grateful for the chance to offer fun and treats to our community. A number of our members dressed up and braved the cold for laughter and sharing on Halloween.

Thank you to all who decorated their trunk and come to hand out candy! Also to those who donated candy!



We give thanks for all the Grateful Hearts in our  
Stewardship Campaign:



We thank the team for putting the campaign together and  
for all who pledged generously from their Grateful Hearts.  
*You are a blessing!*

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*The Messenger is sponsored this month by  
Kathy Bero*

*In memory of Julie Decker.  
Thank you for all your prayers.*



## CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

*All Christmas memorials must be received  
by **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**  
to be included in the Christmas Memorial  
booklet.*

*Your gifts are greatly appreciated.*

I would like to:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Place a poinsettia in the chancel (\$15.00 each)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Emmanuel Maintenance Fund

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Youth Mission Fund

\$\_\_\_\_\_ ELCA – World Hunger Appeal

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Given \_\_\_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In thanks to God \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope Number \_\_\_\_\_