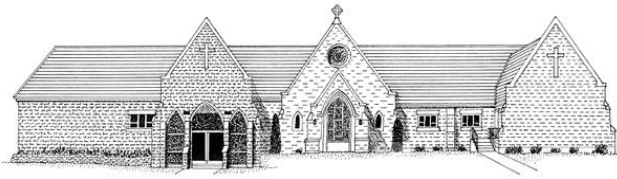


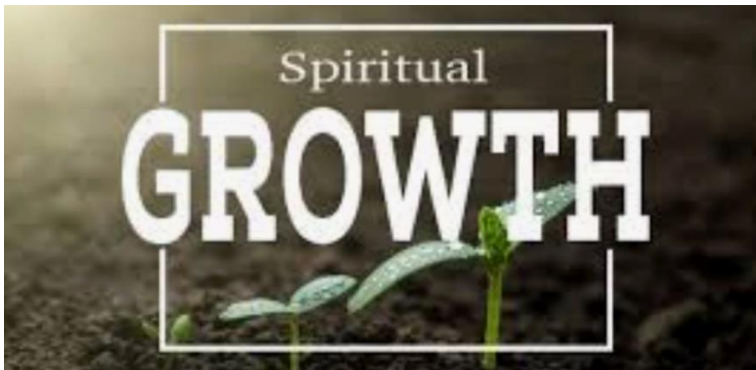
THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan

June

2024



Christ himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ...Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

—*Ephesians 4:11-16*

Summer is a time of growth in our world. You can make it a time of spiritual growth as well. Grow more in the faith through reading God's word, prayer, generosity, service, and talking with others.

Grow in God's grace this summer!

LORD, listen closely to me and answer me,
because I am poor and in need.
Guard my life because I am faithful.
Save your servant who trusts in you—you! My God!
Have mercy on me, Lord,
because I cry out to you all day long.
Make your servant's life happy again
because, my Lord, I offer my life to you,
because, my Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of faithful love for all those who cry out to you.
Listen closely to my prayer, LORD;
pay close attention to the sound of my requests for mercy.
Whenever I am in trouble, I cry out to you,
because you will answer me.
My Lord! There is no one like you among the gods!
There is nothing that can compare to your works!
You are God. Just you.
Teach me your way, LORD, so that I can walk in your truth.
Make my heart focused only on honoring your name.
I give thanks to you, my Lord, my God,
with all my heart,
and I will glorify your name forever,
because your faithful love toward me is awesome
and because you've rescued my life
from the lowest part of hell.
The arrogant rise up against me, God.
A gang of violent people want me dead.
They don't give a thought for you.
But you, my Lord,
are a God of compassion and mercy;
you are very patient and full of faithful love.
Come back to me! Have mercy on me!
Give your servant your strength;
save this child of your servant!
Show me a sign of your goodness
so that those who hate me will see it and be put to shame—
show a sign that you, LORD,
have helped me and comforted me.

—*Psalm 86 CEB*

Does it ever feel like life is a mess or falling apart? Does it ever feel as though you can't get your feet on solid ground? Very little is sure in

this life and sometimes we feel the brunt of that fact more than others. In times of change, especially, we can feel as though life is an upheaval.

The Psalmist certainly feels this way: *“Listen closely to my prayer, LORD; pay close attention to the sound of my requests for mercy. Whenever I am in trouble, I cry out to you, because you will answer me.”* To the Psalmist, it seems that everything is falling apart, and they are in trouble! They feel needy, sad, worried, and stressed. **They need God! They need God’s help! So, they cry out.**

When we are going through difficult times—times of pain, fear, doubt, or transition—it is appropriate to cry out to God. It is good and right for us to ask for what we deeply need from God and to express the raging feelings within us. We can do so because we know that God listens. *“Whenever I am in trouble, I cry out to you, because you will answer me.”*

Practicing reliance on God is part of the work of faith. ***Practicing??*** Yes, it is indeed a practice. When things are topsy-turvy in our lives it may not be “natural” to rely on God and it can be difficult to trust in God. Yet, like the Psalmist, we can intentionally turn to God and practice trusting God. We do this through prayer and through intentionally letting go of anxiety as we wait for God’s path to reveal itself. Done, of course, as we also continue to do our best to navigate through the situation to the best of our ability. **Practicing reliance on God is praying, acting, trusting, letting go, praying again, continuing to act, remembering again to trust, letting go again and again, praying some more, persisting in our work/actions, affirming trust in God, praying again, offering gratitude to God for God’s presence, and then starting the process over again.** We come to learn through this process that even though God doesn’t give us everything we *WANT*, God will give us strength, peace, and assurance to navigate through the troubled waters. In other words, God gives us what we *NEED*. Very little is certain in this life except for its ending and, for those of us who know the Lord our God, the gift of life and love beyond death.

Teach me your way, LORD, so that I can walk in your truth.

Make my heart focused

only on honoring your name.

I give thanks to you, my Lord, my God,

with all my heart,

because your faithful love toward me is awesome

Blessings to you always in the name of the One who listens when we cry out in need.

- Pastor Christine



As the school year ends, most families with school-age children breathe a sigh of relief that hectic schedules are ending for a while. But quickly, we fill in the “lazy days of summer” with numerous activities. We don’t always consider the benefits of rest.

Children and adults, all need permission and space to unplug, reflect, and be renewed. Denise Pope at Stanford’s Graduate School of Education reminds parents that children of all ages need PDF—playtime, downtime, and family time—every day.

Younger children, Pope says, need free-form play, or “unstructured time when they can explore who they are, what kind of person they want to be, what it means to be a good friend, and how to solve problems or navigate conflicts.” Older children need time to reflect and dream.

Rest is also key for children’s faith development. God commands us to set aside the Sabbath day for rest and worship. God also reminds us to “be still” (Psalm 46:10) so we can know him and his will—and hear his voice. When children and families spend quiet time with God, they grow closer to him and become more comfortable engaging with him through prayer. Learn from Jesus, who made time for rest and reflection after dealing with needy crowds. Hit “pause” often so you and your children can be refreshed and renewed.

Being constantly on the go takes a toll on children and families. Don’t fall into the trap of thinking that work is the only virtue or that rest is a waste of time. Joanne Kraft, author of *Just Too Busy*, says God created us with a “Sabbath DNA,” or a need for rest as part of our routine maintenance. She urges parents to resist the culture’s “busyness” mindset by finding ways to rest, laugh, and eat together. There is no better way to honor God than by showing children how to take time to care for our bodies and souls—and to focus on him.

With God’s blessings,
Patti Treptow

Youth Ministries

Sunday School

A few glimpses of the fun we had at the
"End of the Year Picnic"



Sunday School 2024
End of the Year Picnic





2024 Vacation Bible School

July 9, 10, 11 (Tuesday-Thursday)

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

Kindergarten - 5th grade

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

At Outback Rock VBS, kids will be hoppin' on the wildest adventure down under. On this Aussie exploration, kids will learn about God's monumental love and discover what it means to have unshakable faith.

Children will be collecting coins for the ELCA Good Gifts program where a goat will be purchased for families abroad who are in need. We will be asking the congregation for help in this service activity.

On the last day, Thursday at 11:00 a.m. our children will sing their songs - everyone is invited! At around 11:30, we will then be treated to a presentation by Mary Quaak and her lambs.

A VBS letter and registration form will be mailed out the second week in June to Emmanuel families.

Children are encouraged to invite a friend to VBS. Community children may obtain a registration form on our website: www.e-mmanuel.com/vacation-bible-school/.



Deadline to register is Monday, June 24th.



GLOW Youth Group

7th-12th grade

Wednesday, June 19th

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Join us for Bible study discussions,
food, and fun.

Bring a friend!

Confirmation Program

Classes have ended for the program year and will resume in the fall. Watch for the Camp Bird youth retreat that will happen September 14-15.

Here is a look back at the fun we had at our class trip to the NEW Zoo!





Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 2nd

Emmanuel's high school graduates will be honored at our "Graduation Recognition" during the 9:00 a.m. worship service on June 2nd. A cake and punch reception will follow. The Carl and Marian Johnson Memorial Scholarship awards will also be presented during worship.

Congratulations to our graduates!

***Brian Anderson Emma Heider
Anna Helfert Hazel Knutson Brody Nerat***



Ignite Creativity Afterschool Program

Our afterschool program ended on May 22nd. We enjoyed a year filled with creativity! Special thanks to Bruce Peters for helping with the wood projects. Ignite will start up again in the fall.



Adult Ministries

Prayer Group

Will resume in September: 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

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

Will resume on Thursday, September 5th 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 April 30, 2024)

Approved 2024 budgeted offerings: \$79,820.00

Amount ahead approved budget: \$9,929.00

Total offerings and income received: \$94,079.00

Total expenses: \$80,613.00

Income greater than expense by: \$13,466.00

We give thanks to God for your continued generosity.

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.

FAITHFUL INNOVATIONS



What do you think?

What do you think God is calling our congregation to do for our future?

What ministries are a passion of yours?

How should we invest our resources—*people, property, human energy, and finances*—in our congregation and our community for the sake of the Gospel?

Talk with a member of our team, *seen above*, with your thoughts and ideas to guide our congregation forward.

Visitation Team

“Yes: there’s a Biblical foundation for serving in a care and visitation ministry. It’s joining Jesus in service that was and is close to his heart. In fact, as he described the kinds of activities his faithful followers should do, he didn’t indicate there was anything especially unusual about visiting the sick.

Of course, if you’re his follower you’ll be feeding the hungry, clothing those who need winter coats, and taking chicken soup to sick neighbors. That’s what believers do as a matter of course. It’s what love, kindness, and compassion look like when we see people in need and stop by hospital rooms.”

- Mikal Keefer, *"Care and Visitation Ministry"*, p.15

Contact the church office if you or another member of the church could use a visit or visits.

Pancake Supper

Report: **THANK YOU to ALL** who helped with the pancake supper in May in any way.

We appreciate Jeff & Holly Bayerl for organizing the supper and leading us through it.

We are grateful to everyone who helped prepare, cook, serve, and clean up during the supper.

We are appreciative of those who brought in fruit, butter, milk, and syrup to help provide for the evening.

We are thankful for all who came out to eat and share a meal together and to those who invited friends.

We couldn't have done it without you!

THANK YOU!





We Worship at 9:00 AM during the summer

and continue with one service through September 1.

(We will return to our fall schedule on Sept 8.)

Outdoor worship:

June 9

July 14

August 11

... weather permitting ...

Did you know...

that a group for people who are caretakers of loved ones with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia meets at our church?

The group meets on Wednesdays from 3:00—5 PM in our church narthex and is facilitated by a member of our congregation, **June Ehlers**. People meet to share their experiences with one another and give support to each other in their mutual need.

Members of the congregation AND the community are welcome. This is an important function of the Body of Christ—the mutual uplifting and support of the members for growing up into the love of Christ. The Church functions best when members involve themselves in such support; it is not a function of the clergy only, but of all followers of Christ. **We give thanks for this group and the support they offer to one another. If you or a friend needs such support, encourage them to attend a meeting and check it out.** We also thank YOU, as a member of Emmanuel, for the generous offering of our building for use in such ministry!



Emmanuel's Outreach Projects

Our Outreach Committee will be honoring all the men of Emmanuel on Father's Day with a gift on Sunday, June 16th.



What are you into?

Are you performing in an activity in our community such as a sports team, concert, theatrical play, art exhibit, or other event? **If so, let Pastor Christine know!** She would love to come out and see you perform and support you in your passions, when her schedule allows.

The Pastor would love to attend events of children, youth, and adults from our congregation. Let her know!

What is the Holy Trinity?

(Holy Trinity Sunday was on May 26th)

How can we understand the Trinity?

The truth is that we cannot fully understand the Trinity. This is a mystical doctrine—a *holy mystery!* In fact, that's one of the things important about it. In thinking about the Trinity, we learn to trust God with our ambiguity. We cannot know everything and that's okay, for we are not God. Another reason we hold this doctrine to be so important is to recognize that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are not "less" than God the Parent. Being one with God means that Jesus' word IS God's word; the Holy Spirit's actions in the world ARE God's actions. They are God at work, not less than God.

What do we know about the Trinity?

Perhaps the most powerful thing to know about the Trinity is that *the Trinity is God in relationship*. God's very being is one of relationship! Even God is not a "lone ranger". God also



invites us into relationship—*into connection with God*. Look at this ancient iconic depiction of the Trinity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit sit in joyful communion with one another. Notice that square on the front of the table? Scholars believe there used to be a mirror attached. So, when a person approached to look at the image of the Trinity, they saw themselves at the table too! What a gift! God the Trinity invites us to join in relationship with God.

Thanks be to God!

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

Light the Fire for Fortune Lake

Friday, May 31 @ 6:30 p.m. – Zion Lutheran Church:
2724 James Street, Marinette

LIGHT THE FIRE FOR FORTUNE LAKE!
Host sites secured!

Friday, May 31
at 7:30 ET / 6:30 CT

CAMPFIRE!
S'MORES!
SONGS!
FRIENDS!
SKITS!

Thank you hosts!

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Host Sites:
Bethany - Norway
Faith - Three Lakes
Fortune Lake - Crystal Falls
Holy Trinity - Chassel
Prince of Peace - Marquette
Zion - Ironwood
Zion - Marinette
Facebook LIVE - Anywhere

fortunelake.org

A community event to celebrate and support Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. **Join us for songs, stories, skits, and s'mores around a campfire.** Bring your own blanket or lawn chair to sit on. There is no cost to participate, but donations for FLLC are welcome.

* * * * *

This month's Messenger is given in honor of my friend, Jeanne Anderson, on her June 1st birthday and in memory of the June passing of Randall & Pete Anderson by Marilyn Mouritsen

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EMMANUEL

9:00 AM in person
Online Worship 9:00 AM
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