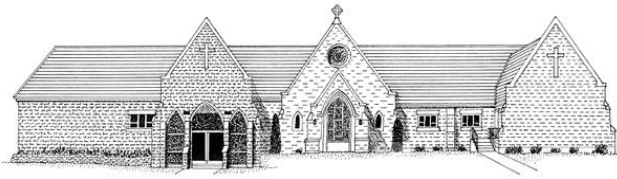


# THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Menominee, Michigan

---

July

2024

---



## Where do you see God?

Gathering as the Church to hear God's word and receive the sacraments is important and vital to the life of faith.

Yet, the warm days of summer also offer opportunities to appreciate the gifts of God found in the beauty of the created world; to find God's creativity in our souls with family and friends while relaxing and having fun; to get out of our normal routine, location, and habits to be surprised by God's grace.

***Enjoy God's love in some unique ways and places this month!***

The one whose wrongdoing is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered over, is truly happy!  
The one the LORD doesn't consider guilty—  
in whose spirit there is no dishonesty—  
that one is truly happy!  
When I kept quiet, my bones wore out;  
I was groaning all day long—  
every day, every night!—  
because your hand was heavy upon me.  
My energy was sapped as if in a summer drought.  
So I admitted my sin to you;  
I didn't conceal my guilt.  
"I'll confess my sins to the LORD," is what I said.  
Then you removed the guilt of my sin.  
That's why all the faithful should pray to you during  
troubled times,  
so that a great flood of water won't reach them.  
You are my secret hideout!  
You protect me from trouble.  
You surround me with songs of rescue!

*(God's response:)*

I will instruct you and teach you  
about the direction you should go.  
I'll advise you and keep my eye on you.  
Don't be like some senseless horse or mule,  
whose movement must be controlled  
with a bit and a bridle.  
Don't be anything like that!  
The pain of the wicked is severe,  
but faithful love surrounds the one who trusts the LORD.  
You who are righteous, rejoice in the LORD and be glad!  
All you whose hearts are right, sing out in joy!

—*Psalm 32*

"My energy was sapped as if in a summer drought." That's how the Psalmist describes the feeling of holding on to guilt and shame while refusing to confess or pray to God. As we enter into the middle of the summer with the coming of July, we are remembering what that feels like. Sometimes my muscles feel like they are disintegrating when I am out in heat and humidity even for

just a few minutes! Such heat can sap our energy and leave us feeling like wet noodles. The Psalmist reminds us that a lack of prayer can do this to us as well.

The summer is often a time of changing schedules. Kids and teachers are out of school and their schedules may look completely different than at other times of the year. People take vacations more often in the summer and leave behind regular routines and familiar places. The days are longer which allow for stretched evenings spent on the backyard patio or bright early mornings in the garden. We can get lost in the magic of summer days and we can see ideas for change in these changing days.

Without God, however, the Psalmist cautions us that such summer days will leave us dried out like a drought. Since the summer lends itself to being a season of change and growth, perhaps it is a fruitful time to ask ourselves what change we might make to grow and deepen our connection to God.

**Could you add a short time of prayer or devotion to your daily routine to connect with God more regularly? OR**

**Could you commit to reading some of God's Word every day? OR...**

**Could you share your faith with a friend and learn more about the journey through such sharing? OR...**

**Could you practice generosity by giving extra time or money to a worthy cause that helps the faith, the community, or the world? OR...**

**Could you fast from something (give up something) with the intention of living a more centered or balanced life in God? OR...**

*Any of these changes can create more fruitfulness in your faith life and walk with God.* This season of change and growth is just the right time to start!

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

- *Pastor Christine*



Summer is usually filled with vacations, family events, and projects that fill up our weekends. It is a busy time, but don't let worship during the summer get left behind. Summer worship is a wonderful time for families to grow together in their faith. With no Sunday school during the summer, families can be together for the entire worship experience. Giving praise and hearing God's word together as a family provides opportunity for continued discussion and devotion of what was learned in church.

One fun way to provide faith discussions with your family at home is by doing an object lesson together. Here is a fun one... You will need enough 3-foot-long strings of licorice so each person has one string. You also need your Bible.

Give each family member a 3-foot-long string of red licorice. Say: **Don't eat this yet. First, pull on the licorice to test how strong it is.** Discuss what happened.

Now work together to braid three licorice strings together. Ask: **What do you think will happen if we pull on this now?**

Have two family members pull as hard as they can on the ends of the braided strand. Ask: **Why was this braid of licorice harder to break?** Share ideas.

Read aloud Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. Say: **Just as the licorice was stronger with three pieces together, we're stronger when we stick together as a family. When we love each other and work together, we show other people Jesus' love.**

Ask: **What are some ways we can show other people Jesus' love?** Share ideas and make a list of things your family can do to share the love of Jesus.

Enjoy the licorice. Then close in prayer, asking Jesus to help you stick together, work together, and share the love of Jesus with others.

With God's blessings, Patti Treptow

# Youth Ministries

## Graduate Recognition



Emma Heider, Anna Helfert,  
and Brody Nerat



Emmanuel's high school graduates were honored at our "Graduate Recognition" during the 9:00 a.m. worship service on June 2nd. Our graduates who were able to attend this special recognition were Emma Heider, Anna Helfert, and Brody Nerat. The Carl and Marian Johnson Memorial Scholarship awards were presented to Emma Heider and Brody Nerat. God's blessings to all of our graduates as they embark on the path God has intended for them.



## GLOW Youth Group

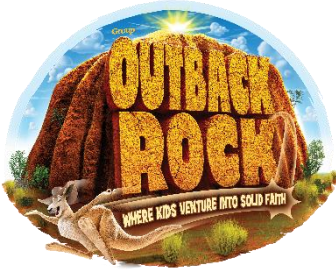
7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade

Wednesdays, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

6:00-7:30 p.m.

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

***Bring a friend!***



**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 was mailed out the second week in June to Emmanuel families. If you did not receive a letter, please contact the church office. 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](http://www.e-mmanuel.com/vacation-bible).

**Deadline to register was Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. If you missed the deadline, call the church we may still have openings!**



# Adult Ministries

## ***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.

## ***Yoga at Emmanuel***

**Tuesdays 5:30—6 PM**

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

---

## **Congregational Financial Update**

*(through May 31, 2024)*

Approved 2024 budgeted offerings: \$95,689.00

Amount ahead approved budget: \$8,221.09

Total offerings and income received: \$110,568.65

Total expenses: \$99,662.52

Income greater than expense by: \$10,906.13

***We give thanks to God for your continued generosity.***

---

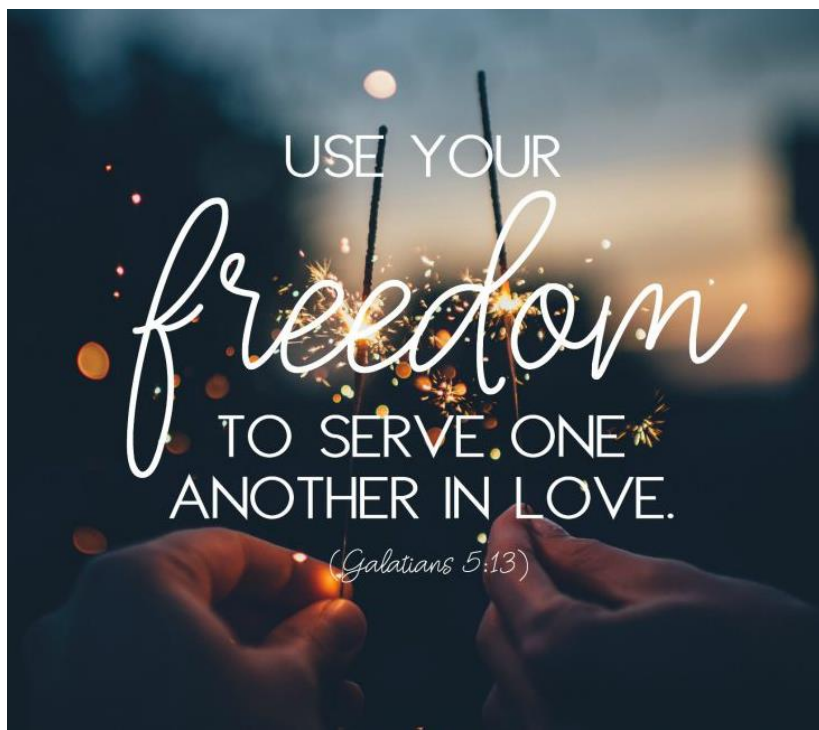
If you would like a copy of any month's Council Minutes, you can find them on our website under the "Our Work" tab, then under "Church Council". Or, call the church office and ask for a copy.

---

## ***Worship at The Harbors***

Pastor Christine is providing a short worship service for the residents of *The Harbors* in Menominee on **the second Thursday of each month, starting this July on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The service is at 3:45 PM in the library on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and lasts for 30 minutes.**

*Let residents know!* If you would like to join the pastor one month, she'd love to have your support!



As we celebrate the many freedoms we have in our country this month, we also remember the particular and special freedom we have as Christians.

**We are freed from the fear and finality of death!**

This means that we are freed from having to live by the world's standards. We are freed from needing to be on the top or from the idea that there has to be "winners" and "losers". We are freed from needing to watch out only for ourselves. We are freed from having to prove ourselves and freed to forgive others. We are freed to be as God calls us to be.

***As Christians, we are uniquely FREED to SERVE.***

Sometimes we think of freedom as the right to do what we want, but freedom for Christians is the space to do what GOD WANTS. It seems paradoxical, but our freedom is for loving, serving, and caring for others—even those we don't understand. **This is freedom in Christ: TRUE freedom.**



# VBS Kids need YOUR help!

**We are collecting monetary donations for the ELCA Good Gifts program.**



Our donations will go toward purchasing goats for families in need across the world.

With limited space to graze and dry land, it's the goats time to shine. Goats can go where other animals can't, surviving in some of the world's most challenging

terrain and unreliable climates.

Fresh milk from a goat provides daily nutrition for children and their families. What's more, goats are incredibly quick to reproduce, and they provide an opportunity for families to pass the gift on to others.

**There will be a collection area near the sanctuary doors in the narthex on July 7<sup>th</sup> and outside with us on July 14<sup>th</sup>.**

***THANK YOU!***



# Summer Worship

**We Worship at 9:00 AM in the summer**  
and continue with one service through September 1.

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

## **Outdoor worship:**

July 14

August 11

*... weather permitting ...*

# FAITHFUL INNOVATIONS



Your FIT (*Faithful Innovations Team*) met in June and will be meeting monthly as we continue to seek God's will for our congregation. We are looking for ways to gather people together and strengthen our connection with one another in Christian love. Look for ways to connect, starting this fall.

*We hope you will join in when and where you can!*

# ***Who are your Church Friends?***

*How well do you know the people at church?*

*Do you have good friends at church?*

*Are there people here with whom you spend free time?*

*Do you know enough people here to make you feel included among the whole?*

In this stressful world, it's important to have vital connections. Usually this is a few people whom you trust, feel comfortable with, and can share your highs and lows with them—*and share their joys and sorrows as well*. Even better is to have a few such people with whom you share a common faith and understanding of the world.

**Starting this fall, we will be offering small groups with the goal of building relationships among congregation members.**

These groups will not be “religious” or “churchy” in and of themselves. These will be groups where members of the church will get together with 4-7 other people from the church for some fun and conversation once a month for 5-6 months. *That is 5 or 6 simple gatherings with others to have fun together*. The get-togethers may be focused around a certain activity or a certain connection. For example, for those who love to run or do crafts OR for parents with pre-teen and teenage children or single women.

**It's actually quite important to have fun together as Christians in the body of Christ!**

Sometimes we don't have enough fun together, yet Christ longs for us to have joy in Him, in this creation, and in one another. Fun and laughter bond us together and make us feel included in the whole. We can't know everyone well, but we can have a few good friends in the church—*and make a new friend or two*—if we're willing to put in just a LITTLE time.

**Look for more information on this experiment in coming months.**

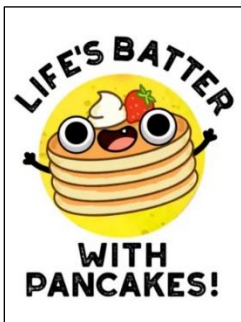
## Did you know...

that the pastor would be honored to visit you in the hospital or after surgery when you can't get out and about for a while? *You have to let her know, though, or get a family member to tell her.* The pastor makes hospital visits to chat and pray with you. If you're in for a while, and are allowed the elements, Holy Communion will also be shared. When we are at our most vulnerable, it can be encouraging and reassuring to receive a visit to connect with someone outside of the medical world.

### **The pastor is also available to you in other times of need.**

*Are you stressed to the point of distraction and need some spiritual guidance—or just someone objective to listen?* The pastor can provide such service. *Are you facing uncertainty in health or life?* The pastor can bring comfort, reminding of God's promises (and sometimes railing against misfortune with you). *Do you need some spiritual guidance in raising children or dealing with a disagreement?* The pastor offers herself as guide. If she doesn't have the answers she can help you look for them!

One of the pastor's roles is to help the faithful discern faith in their everyday lives. Another role is to come alongside the sick, injured, and dying. **Consider calling Pastor Christine in these kinds of needs.**



## Pancake Supper Report

Our Pancake Supper in May made **\$478** after expenses.

We give thanks again to all who helped, came, and invited people! It was a fun night of delicious food and fun fellowship.

## ***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!*



### **Thinking about worship . . .**

*The pastor is looking for your help!* She is looking for your reflections and ideas around worship. Consider these questions and write down your thoughts. *It will be a great help!*

- 1) What speaks to your soul in worship?
- 2) What do you think would be helpful or valuable for your spiritual connection to God that we are not currently doing?
- 3) What worship music best speaks to your soul?
- 4) What would your “perfect worship service” look like?

# Prayfaithfully Devotions

**Pastor Christine wrote the Synod's Prayfaithfully devotions for July 8 – 14.**

***Find them on the Synod website during that week only:***

*<https://nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully/>*

**About “Prayfaithfully”:** this is the prayer ministry page on the web site of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. Take a look around and see all that's happening in prayer ministries.

Check out the links at the bottom of the page for a variety of resources including a prayer calendar, devotions, photos of prayer ministries throughout the synod, and links to other resources around the ELCA and beyond.

## Thanks for the Books!

Pastor Cheryl Johnson came by in June on her way around from lower Michigan and picked up the children's and other books we had collected. She gives them away at her church's food shelf to folks who come and they are a big hit. They go fast!

**We gave 196 books this time!**



*We are still collecting books, so if you have some in your basement or attic or see some cheap at a yard sale, bring them in!*

Find the little red wagon in the narthex and place your donations of books in there.

# 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)



Summer Camp at Fortune Lake is just around the corner, and we still have room in some programs. It's not too late to join in on fun faith-forming time for people of all ages! A few programs to highlight include:

- Evergreen Camp for Adults age 55+: July 14-17 with Pr. Keith Kolstad as the Camp Pastor. Visit <https://fortunelake.org/event/evergreen-camp/> to learn more and to register.
- Youth Camp for kids currently in grades 1-12: multiple dates and program options. Visit <https://fortunelake.org/summer-camp/> to learn more and to register.

We hope to see you all at camp!

\* \* \* \* \*

*This month's Messenger is given in honor of  
their 23<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on July 14  
by Ken & Linda O'Brien*

# 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](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

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

*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