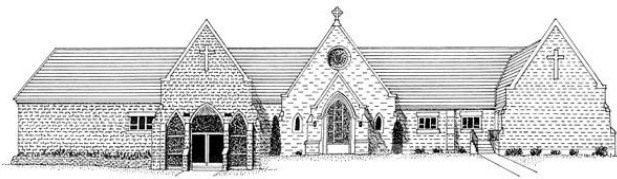


# THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Menominee, Michigan

January

2025

*New Year Prayer*

A special prayer is offered  
For you

*On New Year's Day—*

May God in His unceasing love  
Send many gifts your way,  
And may He fill your heart with peace

And be forever near,  
Blessing you and guiding you  
Throughout the coming year.

· Happy New Year ·

Praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.  
When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.  
The Lord watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the Lord!

—*Psalm 146 NRSVUE*

Every January is a new beginning! Even as much remains the same from one year into the next, January marks something new and unknown. It is a liminal time—a time of mystery. January comes in-between the previous year, which has finally fully revealed itself, and the coming year, of which we do not yet know what it holds for us. This mystery sparks imagination! *What will the new year bring? What will it be like? Will it hold fortune or misfortune? Will it bring joy or pain?* We will receive some of each, as we do every year, but we don't yet know the types or measures. So, we muse and wonder and consider our lives more freely, perhaps, than at other times of the year.

Psalm 146 is a powerful prayer to begin the new year, for it sets intentions for a year lived in faith. In the beginning of the Psalm, there is

praise to our Lord and we are so reminded to start our year with such praise.

*Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.*

We thereby start the year by giving thanks for God's presence and providence in the year before. We also set our souls to give praise in the year to come. This year, like those that have come before, will be lived in the love of God.

We are then reminded to focus on God and not to trust in earthly things or rulers. Unlike God, earthly rulers are mortal, imperfect, and have limited view. No matter how lasting they (or we) think they are, their time is limited. They will not endure as God does. God is the only one who can provide for us and care for us in this life AND the next. Remembering this fact sets our heart again on God for the year.

The rest of the Psalm reminds us of some of God's actions and God's disposition. God made everything in creation that we see, use, and enjoy. God is a God of justice, help, freedom, and healing. God watches over his children and lifts up those who are bowed down with worry, stress, sorrow, or helplessness. God welcomes all — especially the outcasts and those overlooked by others. No one is seen as a stranger by God; instead love prevails.

Psalm 146 reminds us that God will not abandon us in this new year, but continues to work with us and in us.

*The Lord will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the Lord!*

Blessings to you always in the name of the One who walks with us into the new year.

— *Pastor Christine*



*Thank you!*



I give heartfelt thanks for the Christmas gift from the congregation and for the lovely gifts received from members. Thank you for thinking of me and making my season bright. —*Pastor Christine*

# Youth Ministries

## Sunday School Christmas Program

Our children presented their telling of the birth of our Savior in poem and song, on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> during the 10:00 am worship service.





## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Prep!**

Mark your calendars for our next class: **Sunday, January 19, 11:00-12:00 in the Friendship Room. *We ask that a parent join each youth in the class, as possible.***

Don't forget to pick up a worship sheet on the table near the sanctuary doors each Sunday. After completing during worship, please place them in the box on the table.

**Thank you, Little Lutherans youth committee,**  
for a fun party of pizza and crafts following our  
dress rehearsal of the children's Christmas program.



**Upcoming Classes**

Sunday, January 12

11:00 - 1:00



## **GLOW Youth Group**

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

**EVERY Wednesday**

**6:00-7:30 p.m.**

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



## ***Ignite Creative Arts***

### **Afterschool Program**

7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth Wednesdays 3:30-4:30 pm

September through May.

Ignite is a program designed to "light up" creativity and provide exploration of arts, crafts, and sciences. Activities are determined by the youth.

**Spread the word; all of our community's youth are invited!**



*We made amazing pizza from scratch!*

## REPORT: Cookie Baking and Bake Sale

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





# Children's



**January 26th 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

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 breakfast, games, movies, and crafts.

On this Sunday, we will not have a children's sermon so your child may go directly to the party downstairs.

**Youth are also welcome to help at the party!**



Menominee Valley Conference Youth between 6th-12th Grade

**VOLUNTEER @**

Second  
Chances  
Thrift Shoppe



**SATURDAY,  
JANUARY 11**

**NOON - 3:00 P.M. VOLUNTEER AT ABUNDANT  
LIFE MISSION AND THRIFT SHOPPE**

**3:00 - 4:00 P.M. WALK TO BETHEL FOR  
PIZZA AND GAMES**

RSVP TO [YOUTHCOORDINATOR@NGLSYNOD.ORG](mailto:YOUTHCOORDINATOR@NGLSYNOD.ORG)

## **January Conference-Wide Youth Event**

**Saturday, January 11, 12—4:00 PM**

Menominee Valley Conference Youth between 6th-12th grade will be meeting at Second Chances Thrift Shoppe (1406 10th Avenue, Menominee) on Saturday, January 11 at 12:00 p.m. We will assist with serving lunch at Abundant Life Mission and help with tasks at the Thrift Shoppe until 3:00 p.m. After volunteering, we will walk over to Bethel Lutheran Church for pizza and games. Parents may pick up youth at Bethel (1309 14th Avenue, Menominee) at 4:00pm.

***Please RSVP to Stefanie at [youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org) so we know how many volunteers to expect.***

# Adult Ministries

## ***Downsizing with Friends***

**Mondays at 9:00 AM**

*"Weight Loss on the honor system."* Join us in the Fellowship Hall for Food Planning, Recipe Sharing, Fun Conversation, and more.

## ***Yoga at Emmanuel***

**Tuesdays, 5:30—6 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.*  
New people welcome!

## ***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***

**Thursday, January 2 at 1:00 PM**

Join us in the Friendship room for Bible study and fellowship.  
*All women are welcome!*

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## **Congregational Financial Update**

*(through November 30, 2024)*

Approved 2024 budgeted offerings: \$199,217.00

Amount ahead approved budget: \$7,543.00

Total offerings and income received: \$220,129.00

Total expenses: \$216,438.00

Income greater than expense by \$3,691.00

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

# Annual Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, January 26**

At ~10:00 AM, *following 9:00 worship*

**There will be ONE worship service on the 26<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00am.**

The meeting will follow that service. Please plan to stay to discuss and vote on important congregational items for 2025. *Thank you.*

**Committee Heads and Council Officers are asked to submit their reports to the church office by Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>.**

*If you'd like to see last year's report, for reference, please contact Judy at the office.*

Copies of the Annual Report will be available at church on Sunday, January 19.



**Gary Sevon** passed away on December 12. Our sympathy to all his family and friends.

**Marcia Schreiner** passed away on December 13. Her funeral was held at Emmanuel on December 17. Our sympathy to her children (*especially our own Patti Treptow*), grandchildren, great-grands, and other family members.

**Bob Koehler** passed away on December 18. His memorial service was held at Hansen-Onion-Martell funeral home on December 28. Our sympathy to his wife, *Ann*, his children, grandchildren, and other family.

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



# Emmanuel's Outreach Projects

## **REPORT: Bell Ringing for Salvation Army**

What a joyous time we had singing and ringing bells for Salvation Army at Jacks Market in Menominee on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to those who gave of their time to raise money to help those in need in our community.



## More Christmas Outreach.....

Thank you to our Outreach Committee for a successful Christmas service project. **Thank you also to everyone who donated to our food drive and bought gifts for our Tree of Love.**



For our Tree of Love this year, we partnered with Salvation Army Angel program to provide gifts for 21 children in the Marinette and Menominee area. Our food drive helped to fill the pantries of both St Vincent's DePaul and Salvation Army.



We gave fruit baskets 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!

## Worship at *The Harbors*

Pastor Christine is providing a worship service for the residents of *The Harbors* in Menominee normally on **the second Thursday of each month—this month, however, on January 23<sup>rd</sup> because of a switch with another pastor.**

The service is at 3:45 PM in the library on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and lasts for about 30-45 minutes. *Let residents know!*



### Fellowship Event

## “Chillin’ with Bunko”!

Thursday, January 16 at 6:00 PM

The Fellowship Team will host another game of Bunco! Come in your flannel, and enjoy rolling the dice, hot chocolate, snacks, and some wine—all for a good time!



Bunco is a fun, easy to play, dice rolling game. 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!*

## **REPORT: 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 the first three causes or to entirely other causes, as the Endowment Committee chooses. This year, the committee decided to give 25% each to four causes: two local, one national, and one international. **You may be pleased to know that the following gifts were given this year on your behalf, as a member of Emmanuel.**

\$1,492.75 to Abundant Life Mission, *a local ministry*

\$1,492.75 to the Menominee Children's Museum, *a local cause*

\$1,492.75 to help those affected by Hurricane Helene through ELCA Domestic Disaster Relief, *a national cause*

\$1,492.75 to help in Gaza through Lutheran World Relief, *an international cause*

***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.**

## **Sponsorship of the Messenger and weekly bulletin**

If you would like to sponsor a 2025 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.*



# GIVING MADE EASY

## *Donate to our Church with your phone!*

Support ministries anytime and anywhere from the palm of your hand. Here are the simple steps to begin giving:

- Download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app from the App Store or Google Play
- Search for our Church
- Create an account to sign up
- Select your fund and amount
- Enter payment method, can either be a bank checking/savings account or a debit/credit card

*If you choose to use a debit/credit card, the processing fee will be deducted from your donation.*

*If you use your checking/saving account, your entire donation goes to the Church.*

- You can choose to cover your processing fees
- Complete your donation

The accounts we have set up for giving on the mobile app at this time include:

General Operating Fund (*Regular Offerings*)

First Envelope (*Additional first offering of the new year, usually \$5.00*)

Thanksgiving

Maintenance Fund

Christmas

Youth Activity Fund

Lent and Easter

Other

**We can add more accounts to donate to if the need arises. It's that easy! We encourage you to set up an account and give it a try!**

*The Vanco church payment app prioritizes security with a range of measures designed to protect users' data and transactions. The app complies with PCI DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard) Level 1, the highest level of certification for payment processors. This ensures that all payment information is encrypted and securely transmitted. Additionally, the app uses SSL (Secure Socket Layer) technology to protect data during transmission and multi-factor authentication to safeguard access to sensitive information.*

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

We appreciate you for using your time and strength to adorn our space with seasonal beauty. Thank you for pitching in!



## **Can You Help with our worship space?**

On Sunday, January 5, after the 10:00 service, we are taking down the Christmas decorations to recreate our worship space for the new church season. We need your help. *“Many hands make light work.”* Please mark your calendar and come to help. Thanks!

# 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)



## **Winter Classes Begin in January and February**

**For more information and to register, visit the Northern Great Lakes Synod website:**

Youth ministry, the Bible, church traditions, and “Walking With Our Indigenous Neighbors” are included in the focus of Lifelong Faith Formation this winter.

In its fifth year, the program is one way for the people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, and beyond, to take part in conversations that nurture spiritual growth and Christian community. Four courses will meet online via Zoom. One, “Take and Eat,” will be meet in person at Immanuel Lutheran in Escanaba.



# SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EMMANUEL

**8 & 10 AM in person**

**Online Worship 8:00 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