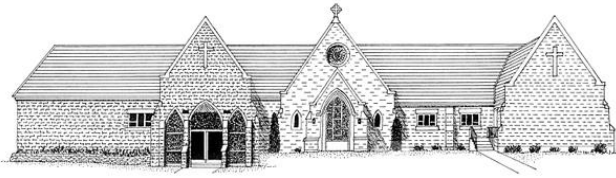


# THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Menominee, Michigan

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**February**

**2025**

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I love you, O Lord, my strength.  
The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,  
    my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,  
    my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.  
I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,  
    so I shall be saved from my enemies.  
The cords of death encompassed me;  
    the torrents of perdition assailed me;  
the cords of Sheol entangled me;  
    the snares of death confronted me.  
In my distress I called upon the Lord;  
    to my God I cried for help.  
From his temple he heard my voice,  
    and my cry to him reached his ears.  
He reached down from on high; he took me;  
    he drew me out of mighty waters.  
He delivered me from my strong enemy  
    and from those who hated me,  
    for they were too mighty for me.  
They confronted me in the day of my calamity,  
    but the Lord was my support.  
He brought me out into a broad place;  
    he delivered me because he delighted in me.

—*Psalm 18:1-6, 16-19 NRSVUE*

With winter comes shorter days, less sunshine, cold weather, and seasonal blues. Has it started to wear on you? As in many different areas of life, God's Word has encouragement. Do you ever feel alone, facing struggles that seem too big to handle? David—the shepherd who became a great warrior king of Israel—wrote Psalm 18 to celebrate how God kept him safe throughout many battles. I encourage you to read the entire psalm when you have a little time, for I've only quoted a few verses above.

David knew about difficulty and hardship. For a long time, he was alone and on the run for his very life as Saul hunted him down in anger. David spent a lot of time in caves, with his life in danger. Later, even as King, David faced many foes in war and probably felt like he never got a break—always being attacked, always on the edge, his life always on the cusp of falling apart. Have you ever felt that

way? You and I may not have the same difficulties as David or such extreme consequences as being in charge of a nation under attack, but that doesn't mean that we don't have troubles or face fears and difficulties. We all know what it feels like when it seems like things are falling apart, or we feel alone or attacked, or we don't know which way to turn for solace. These times are often called "winter seasons" in our lives, whether they actually happen in winter or not! In "winter seasons", things are not growing, but instead seem dead or dying. Possibilities seem limited and we may feel like we're being attacked. If such a time is happening in the actual season of winter, it can make the troubles feel compounded. Tucked away in our houses in the cold, we may feel separated from others and alone.

The truth, though we may not feel it at the time, is that God is with us. God has not forgotten us. God holds us close and continues to pour love into our lives, even if we cannot see or experience that love in the moment.

*In my distress I called upon the Lord;  
to my God I cried for help.  
From his temple he heard my voice,  
and my cry to him reached his ears.*

God IS with you and me in love, even in the moments that it's difficult to see. Sometimes we can only recognize God's activity by hindsight, when we are through the time of trouble and are looking back. Sometimes we may never recognize God's presence with us in those times, even when looking back. Yet, none of that changes the promise of God to walk with us through this life and into the next.

*They confronted me in the day of my calamity,  
but the Lord was my support.  
He brought me out into a broad place;  
he delivered me because he delighted in me.*

God delights in you! God is with you, in winter as much as in summer, in difficulties as much as in times of ease, in struggles and pain as much as in times of joy. Take a little time to read Psalm 18 this winter and imagine how God walks with YOU through your unique winter seasons and through the cold of this ACTUAL winter season. Remember, God IS with you, even in winter.

Blessings to you always in the name of the One who walks with us and delivers us through the winter seasons of life.

— *Pastor Christine*



February brings about thoughts and actions of love. 1 John 4:16 states, "God is love. If we keep on loving others, we will stay one in our heart with God and He will stay one with us." The Ten Commandments, as our confirmation students can tell us, also teach us how to love God and each other.

Showing love can easily come through the words we use. Our words can also do the opposite. James chapter 3 tells us that our tongues can cause a lot of harm. Name-calling, bickering, whining, and put-downs tear people apart. It is important for adults to teach children to use their words for good. Our words have the power to heal, encourage, restore relationships, and praise God.

All parents face the challenge of how to respond when kids say bad words. *Parenting Christian Kids* suggests to resist the urge to display shock or anger. Calmly explain in age-appropriate language why certain words aren't acceptable. Preschoolers often just repeat what they hear. When they do use a bad word, share that certain words can hurt people's feelings. For children ages 6 to 9, explain that words are "bad" when they're intentionally used to hurt others. Preteens often use profanity to get a reaction from adults and impress friends. Tell them that you won't allow obscene words and gestures, and help them develop the discernment to censor their own language.

Here are some helpful reminders for using words in a positive way:

- Set an example by using appropriate, uplifting words and by apologizing when you mess up. Little ears are always listening.
- Know when to stop talking. Proverbs 10:19 says, "You will say the wrong thing if you talk too much, so be sensible and watch what you say." Help children understand the importance of stopping to think before speaking.
- It's confusing and irritating to kids when their parents set rules against swearing but don't follow them, especially when upset.
- Talk frequently about Jesus and his love. Ask God to help you and your children use positive, joyful, God-honoring words, and to help you resist the temptation to use your words unwisely.

With God's love and blessings,  
Patti Treptow, Director of Youth & Family Ministry

# Youth Ministries

## Sunday School

Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> our children enjoyed a pajama party. Kids ate a breakfast of French toast sticks, fruit, juice and milk. They played games, watched a Veggie Tales movie, and made crafts. Here are some photos of the fun!



## Upcoming Classes

Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>  
11:00 - 1:00

Our class took a field trip to the Menominee County Courthouse. Thank you to Judge Rob Jamo for helping teach our confirmation class about the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."



# 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!***

**Here are a few glimpses of our Christmas party!**







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

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



**First**

**Communion**

***Parents of 5<sup>th</sup> graders: First  
Communion classes will start  
March 23rd and run for four  
weeks.***

Any 6<sup>th</sup> grader who has not yet taken Holy Communion instruction is also welcomed to join us. 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. Letters with registration will go out to parents mid-February.



### **Carl & Marion Johnson Memorial Scholarship**

Emmanuel's graduating high school seniors who are attending a university or vocational/technical college are invited to apply for this scholarship.

Applications for scholarship will be mailed to our graduating seniors early February. Deadline for applications is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Presentation of scholarship(s) will be on Graduate Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> during the 9:00am worship service.



**FORTUNE LAKE**  
*A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI*

### **Sumer Camp 2025**

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.

Please sign up in  
the narthex.

Hosted by:  
The Youth  
Committee  
Little Lutherans

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

# Valentine Tea

Sunday, February 16th

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

In the Fellowship Hall



Everyone - adults, teens, and children, are invited to join us for tea, coffee, juice and a light luncheon with desserts. There will be games with prizes, a photo booth, and music.

No cost to attend, There will be a free-will offering.



## Conference-wide Youth Event:



Menominee Valley Conference Youth  
between 6th-12th grade are invited to

# MAKE YOUR OWN POTTERY

**FEB 8, 2025**  
1:00 - 4:00 pm  
163 S. Stephenson Ave  
Peshtigo, WI

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

Menominee Valley Conference youth between 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to create their own pottery **on Saturday, February 8.** We will meet at 163 S. Stephenson Ave. in Peshtigo (the small building next to Hunter's Choice) **from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** Youth will learn how to hand-build and have the chance to try throwing clay on a potter's wheel! All supplies and instructions will be provided. **There is no cost to attend, but please RSVP to Stefanie at [youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org).**

*After the pottery has set, we will have a follow up gathering on Saturday, March 15 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. to put glaze on the dried clay.*

# 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, February 6 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 December 31, 2024)*

Approved 2024 budgeted offerings: \$227,800.00  
Amount ahead approved budget: \$5,930.00  
Total offerings and income received: \$247,360.00

Total expenses: \$238,400.00

Income greater than expense by \$8,960.00

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



# Emmanuel's Outreach Projects



[tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org)

## Sunday, February 9th

Once again Emmanuel's Outreach Committee is sponsoring the "Souper Bowl of Caring" to help tackle hunger. Our congregation will be collecting cans of soup on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. You

may drop off your cans of soup in the narthex on that day. This **one-day collection** of soup will be given to our local food pantries.

***Please join in and help make a difference by tackling hunger in our community!***



## From Pastor Cheryl Johnson:

### BOOKS FOR KIDS

4,409 children's books (plus crayons) given out in 2024

3,457 children's books received or purchased

Balance (12.31.23) \$907.34    Expenses \$693.57    Income \$10.    Balance (12.31.24) \$223.77

Once a month during Immanuel's food pantry, we distributed children's books (crayons, magazines, and novels for the adults, too). Everyone who received books, from children to parents to grandparents, marvel at the selection and are very appreciative of this ministry.

Since we started this project in May 2015, **31,521 children's books have been given away!!!**

Think of how many lives have been blessed! During 2024, donations of children's books have been received from members of Immanuel and their families/friends; Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Menominee, MI; the Jackson District Library; local schools; the nurses from the Oncology Unit at Henry Ford Hospital; and many of our family and friends in NJ and CT. **THANK YOU, everyone, for your continued support.**

Cheri Johnson and Wayne Widmann

## **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 on February 13**. 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!*



## ***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.***

## **Northland Lutheran Retirement Community** **Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, February 16 at 1:00 pm**

Each Congregation can be represented at the meeting by 2 delegates. *If you are interested in representing Emmanuel at the meeting, please contact Judy at the church office.*

# Lent Study: In the Footsteps of the Savior

by Max Lucado

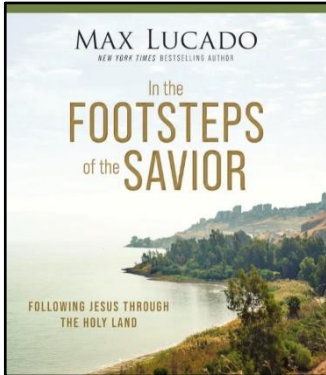
## Offered on:

**Mondays at 6:00 PM, starting March 3**

**&**

**Tuesdays at 1:00 PM, starting March 4**

## *Enrich Your Faith by Walking with Jesus*



Join Max Lucado on an inspirational journey through the hills, the dust, and the homes of the Holy Land! Discover, with new eyes, God's heart for his people and his deep love for you.

In this video Bible study, you and your small group are invited to come with Max through Capernaum, Galilee, Bethany, Jerusalem, and more. As Max weaves together insights from his own travels to Israel with teaching from his bestselling books, he will guide you to walk

where Jesus walked and ponder the promises he made.

God has more in store for you than you can imagine! This video Bible study will provide you an encounter with the life-altering Holy One as you follow in the footsteps of the Savior through the Holy Land.

## Sessions:

1. Capernaum: *Following Jesus When You Doubt*
2. Sea of Galilee: *Following Jesus in Your Storms*
3. Mount of Beatitudes: *Following Jesus When You Worry*
4. Temple Steps: *Following Jesus...And Only Jesus*
5. Garden Tomb: *Following Jesus When You Need Hope*
6. Caesarea by the Sea: *Following Jesus When You Need Grace*

**Total Cost: \$25**

( \$14 for the book; \$11 for the study guide )

*Participation is precious! We do not want cost to prohibit anyone from participating. Contact the pastor privately if you would like to join the study for free. Assistance will be kept confidential.*

**Sign up in the narthex by February 16<sup>th</sup>**



## 2025 Church Council

Brianna Camps *President*

Joanna Magrane *Vice President*

Holly Bayerl *Secretary*

Deb Villas *Treasurer*

Eileen Beyer

Jim Briar

Jeff Hines

Jeremy Sallgren

Gail Sieglaff

Cindy Smith

### *New Council Members:*

**Allyson Bickel**

**Janet Conklin**

**James Porras**

**Andrew Miller—Youth Member**

The 2024 Annual Report was presented to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025 after the 9:00 a.m. worship service. **We had a quorum of 69 active voting members**, which exceeds the necessary quorum of 52. The meeting began at 10:15 AM. The 2025 Budget was approved, reports were reviewed, and three new council members were elected to serve on the council, plus one youth representative. *We welcome the new representatives to the council! Thank you for your dedication, commitment and faithfulness to Emmanuel.* The congregational meeting ended at 11:11 AM with the Lord's Prayer.



# 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)

## NGLS Dungeons & Dragons Retreat February 21-22, 2025



The NGLS Dungeons & Dragons Club, for youth between 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, will hold a retreat February 21-22, 2025. Please email Stefanie at [youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org) for more information about the retreat or if you would like to be part of this new club!

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

*The messenger is given in memory and honor of our family members who have birthdays in February by Cookie Kramer.*

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

If you would like to receive your **2024 end of the year financial statement** please request one in the church office.

# 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