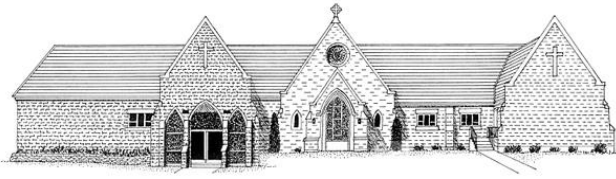


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan

May

2020



Pentecost Sunday
May 31, 2020

FROM THE PASTOR...

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'm eating a little crow here.

When I preach, when I write Messenger articles, when I post Facebook articles and images, I am a chronic cheerleader for change. Mind you, I don't suggest that we change for the sake of change, but instead that we are proactive to the needs and shifting sands of our culture. The last thing that God wants is for his church to be is a building full of stubborn people holding onto irrelevant traditions which serve only themselves. Instead, we are called to continually be discerning how we can honor our traditions and rituals in such ways that serve God and serve God's people in the present day.

Well, change has swept over us, and I'll be the very first to admit that I haven't always handled the day-to-day challenges of a church with locked doors with grace and dignity. It's been hard. It's not natural. While I'm grateful that we have the capacity to broadcast each Sunday on Facebook Live, it's not the same as engaging with God's people gathered together, and neither are all of our members able to connect on this platform. I've had the opportunity to talk to many of you during these past weeks and one thing that I've repeated is that it is lonely and empty and cold in this building, and that's not how it is supposed to be. God's people are supposed to be here. Just two months ago we had activities scheduled here six days a week. It was bustling. Holy Week and Easter were being planned. A youth fundraiser breakfast was on the books for Palm Sunday. We were going to be singing our favorite hymns each Sunday of the Easter season. It all came to a crashing halt.

Yet, during this time of darkness and quiet, God has been active and alive, and for that we give thanks. As many of you may (or may not, for that matter) know, sometime on Thanksgiving Day 2019 a pipe burst in the church kitchen and covered nearly all of our kitchen, fellowship hall, and hallway with water. With the insurance reimbursement from this calamity, **we have been able to replace the entire basement floor.** While this had been a discussion point in council and on our property committee for several years to do this project, this is not how we drew

it up; yet, how often does it ever work out the way we draw it up? God's got a funny sense of humor like that.

In addition to the floor project being completed at this time, thanks to your very generous Easter donations, **we are less than \$1000 short of completing our goal to install the electronic sign on 13th street.** I humbly ask, if you are able to do so, please prayerfully consider if you can contribute towards getting us over this final hump in getting this sign installed, which will give us another avenue in reaching out to our community neighbors.

As well, even though Facebook and internet connections are certainly not the same as sitting down in your pew next to the same person you have sat next to every Sunday for years and exchanging the handshake and words of peace with your worshiping neighbors, we really are blessed to live in an age where we do have these streaming capabilities. Though we would certainly persevere with whatever means that we would have, we have learned that there is safety and security in these platforms, and, through them, we're continuing to be able to be the church. But, thanks be to God, we are finally starting to roll slowly around the bend and the opportunity to begin to reclaim some of what we know and love about our church is starting to return to us, and instead of waiting anxiously for what each day might hold, we're able to begin moving forward again.

For starters, the church office is now occupied and functional again. While I have daily been present in the office during the past six weeks to answer emails and return phone calls and to address the ongoing operations to the best of my ability, I am overjoyed to share with you that **Judy, Patti, and our custodial staff have now returned and there should be someone in the building most days Monday – Thursday from 9:00 – 4:00.** In order though, to continue to be responsive to health and safety concerns, for the immediate future the outer doors will remain locked at all times. **If you have church business in which you do need to conduct inside, please contact the church office prior to your visit and somebody will be more than happy to meet you at the door.** We want to ensure that your time here is safe and we will do everything in our power to ensure that.

Unfortunately, the resumption of Sunday communal worship is still an unknown to us, but initial plans are being considered for when we will be able to open our doors and worship together on Sunday mornings.

One of these initial plans is for the celebration of Holy Communion. I have had many persons inquire about Holy Communion during this quarantine time and up until now I have chosen to fast from participating in Communion for a couple of reasons. 1) Being uneducated about the COVID-19 virus and not wanting to put myself, nor any of the members of our congregation in danger, I was simply not comfortable in sharing. 2) The exclusive nature of the sharing of this sacrament at this time. If I'd have proposed a "virtual communion," meaning those who participate in the Facebook Live service would commune from home, it would have excluded those who are not connected to Facebook. Holy Communion is a meal meant to be shared, and doing this would have left a large portion of our congregation unaware of this opportunity.

But, as I have educated myself and pondered this, I feel that I am now ready to comfortably celebrate this meal together. With that said, I am proposing that on **Sunday, May 31st, Pentecost Sunday, barring any government restrictions, we will celebrate Holy Communion together. There will be two different ways to do this.** At the conclusion of the 9:00 Facebook Live service I will bless the elements on the altar with the Words of Institution and the Eucharistic prayer. **For those who wish to remain in their homes and participate, I will then invite them to consume the elements that they have prepared in advance for themselves.** At the conclusion of this virtual practice, I will then transition to the 14th street entrance where **those who would like to receive the physical bread and wine from the altar can do so from the comfort and safety of their own car in "drive-through" fashion.** Please know that myself, as well as the person(s) who assists me, will be wearing a mask and gloves during the distribution. **This in-person communion station will be available from 9:45 – 10:45 that morning** to allow those who need to travel from further distances to be able to watch the service and still be present here. I will again relay these instructions during our worship service that morning. **Please note that even if you are not connected to Facebook, you are still invited to**

come and receive Holy Communion during this time, Sunday, May 31st from 9:45-10:45, in the 14th Street parking lot, if you are comfortable doing so.

We are definitely experiencing church like never before, but in the midst of this monumental change, two things have remained true and steadfast throughout: God's faithfulness and your trust in that faithfulness. Thank you to everyone who have continued to give and give generously throughout this time of anxiety and uncertainty. While we still don't know what the future holds, we know that God holds the future, and that, my friends, is sufficient. I hope to have more insight into that future in the next few weeks and I will let you know as it transpires. Until then, be safe, be healthy, and be blessed.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

EMMANUEL BUDGET NEWS
As of April 30, 2020

*Your Contributions to the General Fund	\$79,262.93
*Your Approved Budget Amount	\$88,775.00

**Much thanks to Barb, Linda, John and Marilyn, who have provided the gift of music each Sunday as we have worshipped virtually. This coming Sunday, May 17th, we're all taking off....instead, the Synod has put together a pre-recorded Synod-wide worship service, with Bishop Finegan preaching, which will be available on our Facebook page by 8:00 on Sunday morning.
Peace, Pastor Mark**

Youth and Family Ministries



Ending our educational, fellowship, and outreach activities as we have had to because of Covid-19 was definitely not how I envisioned our program year coming to an end. May is usually filled with celebrations of milestones met and hard work achieved. This is true of things outside of our church as well. Events such as proms, graduations, weddings, family celebrations and community activities also have had to be cancelled.

Along with this sense of loss, it is also difficult not knowing how long we will need to endure these changes in our everyday lives. However, what we do know is, God is with us and will provide us ways to stay connected as His children, as a family, and as a community.

With that being said, we are finding creative ways to keep our faith formation and worship reaching our families. Worship is livestreamed each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. on our Facebook page and the previous Sunday's worship video is available on our website. Lessons and at-home activity ideas are being emailed out to families of our Sunday school and confirmation children each week. When I learn more as to how we will proceed with Summer Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and youth activities, I will keep you informed.

As we end this program year, I would like to thank our teaching staff, committee members, and other volunteers that help to nurture the faith in our members of all ages as well as build community within our church. I look forward to being back together as soon as possible doing God's work.

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



Online Worship Service

9:00 a.m. each Sunday

Livestreamed on our Facebook Page

For those of you who do not have a Facebook account, Sunday's worship service video is available on our website. You will find it under a separate tab on the top of the home screen that states "Worship Videos". You may visit our website at www.e-mmanuel.com or scan this QR code with your smart phone to be directed to our website.



Called to their promised eternal home:

Fay Ruleau passed away March 16, at Aurora Bay Area Medical Center. Faye's funeral was held March 20 at Anderson-Diehm Funeral Home.

Hazel Peterson passed away March 24, at Luther Home. A memorial service for Hazel will be held at a later date.

Bennie Kamin passed away April 26. A private funeral was held on April 30, for Bennie at Cadieau Funeral Home.

Our sympathy to:

Tim Lemery, at the death of his father, John, on February 29th.

Marlene Parrish, at the death of her husband, Stephen, on April 28th.

May all who mourn be filled with the hope of the promise to eternal life that has been made alive in our baptisms.

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EMMANUEL
Online Worship 9:00 a.m.
Livestreamed on our Facebook page

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or

Visit us on the Web at www.e-mmanuel.com



Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at
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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
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America