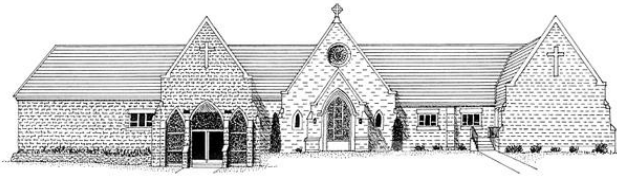


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Menominee,
Michigan

August

2020



BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

When I was a student in the German Languages class in my high school, I wasn't a very good one. Like many language classes, the students were expected to respond to the teacher's questions and direction by utilizing the German language that we were learning. It makes sense, right?

As I said, I wasn't a very good student, and when called upon, I usually went to my fallback answer for everything, "Ich weis nicht," translated as, "I know not" or "I don't know." The (very, very patient!) teacher would ask me things like, "what is the German word for 'airplane?'" or "Is the suffix of this word male or female?" or "Is there any possibility that you will learn anything in this class?" to which my more than automatic response would be, "Ich weis nicht" – "I don't know."

In the years since I've graduated high school, my response of "I don't know" has still been used on occasion, but certainly not with the same frequency as it was in my high school German class. That is, until recently. People probably don't see me a whole lot outside of worship or walking in Henes Park because I've been pretty adamant about trying to do my part to not spread the COVID-19. On the rare occasion that I do get a chance to see you fine folks, often the question will be posed to me of, "when are we going to get to go back in to church?"

It probably doesn't take much of a stretch of the imagination to guess what my response invariably is to this question: I don't know. At one point, not too long ago, I really thought (hoped?) that we might be gathering indoors again by this time, but recent rises in COVID-19 cases and outbreaks in our communities, as well as within the members of our church, has determined that we're just not quite there yet.

When will we get there? I don't know. What will worship and church functions will look like when we are able to comfortably

open up our doors again? I have an idea.....but I really don't know. Will church ever go back to like it was before? I'm guessing, probably not, but, again.....I don't know.

In whatever capacity we hear that answer of "I don't know," it's frustrating to do so. Trust me, it's just as frustrating to give it. A great deal of our lives are spent living into tradition and ritual, whether it's gathering the whole family for Thanksgiving or communing alongside our family in worship twice a month. There's a security and a joy in all of it because it means that we are gathering together and all is as we expect it should be. We may spend a lot of time and energy in preparation for these events. There is anticipation as well as expectation associated with them. What is very real and very scary, then, is that as some of these opportunities pass us by in the present, we wonder if we'll be able to regain them again in the future. Grief and mourning are very appropriate responses to what we are going through as the church and as individuals right now, and not having clear and definite answers are probably not alleviating any of it.

So, allow me to share one firm, concrete answer with you to one question. It's the least that I can do. To the question posed of, "Is the church still relevant?" The answer: absolutely. In the midst of a pandemic and social upheaval, the church continues to proclaim the love of God in Jesus Christ, and to do so loud and clear. The Word is preached. The young and old alike are taught. Our broken world continues to be lifted up in prayer and with financial support. God's people continue to do God's work with their (washed and sanitized) hands. Hope continues to be present.

And that's ultimately what our call as God's people boils down to. As so many persons struggle to experience hope, the gift of God's grace, we are proclaiming it, and we are naming it: Jesus Christ. What does the future hold? I don't know.....but I do know who's hands it's held in, and that is a good enough answer for me.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Church office hours are Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. If you need to conduct church business outside of these times, please contact Pastor Mark at (906) 424-0003.
- Parking Lot Worship (weather permitting) Sundays, AUGUST 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th at 9:00 a.m. You are encouraged to bring your own chair, but chairs will be provided for those who need them. If it rains or the weather makes it impermissible to gather, the service will continue to be Facebook Livestreamed each Sunday.
- **Safe Distancing Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, August 23rd**, during the 9:00 worship service. Drive-through Safe Distancing Communion will then be available for those who wish to receive it from 9:45 am – 10:15 am at the 14th Street building entrance.
- The **church picnic tentatively scheduled for Sunday, August 30th has been cancelled**. This was not an easy decision to make, but, for the safety of our members, it was the right one. We look forward to picnicking together next year.
- There will be **no worship service on Sunday, September 6th**, Labor Day Weekend. I encourage you to find another worship opportunity via Facebook, television, radio, or to use that time for meditation and Biblical engagement.

EMMANUEL BUDGET NEWS

As of July 31, 2020

*Your Contributions to the General Fund	\$131,647.26
*Your Approved Budget Amount	\$153,861.75

Our continuing work

This time of year we would normally be putting the finishing touches on our fall programming opportunities, including: Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Education, Choir, etc. None of these will be happening in the traditional sense, at least for the immediate future, though there is prepping and planning for virtual and alternative opportunities for some. Be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks!

We will continue to worship in the 14th Street Parking Lot through the month of August, as well as broadcast the worship service on Facebook Live at 9:00 am. If you have any anxiety or apprehension about being here in person, but feel obligated to do so, simply because we are gathering, please trust your own judgment, and err on the side of caution. First, and foremost, we want everyone to be safe! As well, a reminder for those who are here is that it is important to practice safe social distancing. For those who cannot be here, who choose not to be here, and who are not connected to Facebook, please note that the Sunday worship service is usually on our Website, www.e-mmanuel.com, on the following Monday. For the immediate future, we will continue to abide by state and health organization guidelines for the safety of our members and visitors, but are continuing to monitor and prepare for the day when we can once again convene together in our sanctuary. Be vigilant and be safe!

The sermon and worship during three consecutive Sundays of August 16th, 23rd, and 30th, will focus on The Lord's Prayer, taken from St. Luke 11:2-4. The themes we will lift up on those Sundays are: Relationship, Provision, and Forgiveness. As well, we will reflect on Martin Luther's words taken from the Second, Fourth, and Fifth Petitions of the Lord's Prayer from the Small Catechism.

We are here for you!

Just because we are not able to gather to worship doesn't mean that our resources aren't available. Please feel free to come in during church hours (or, if those don't work, to arrange another time) to utilize the Children and Family Library, to pick up a devotional or prayer magazine, or to simply spend a few moments in the sanctuary. Please let us know what you need and we will accommodate you as best we can!

Memorial Committee



We have recently purchased an **AED Heart Defibrillator** for the church from the **Avis Barofsky** memorial. The defibrator will be placed in the narthex and a training session on its use will be held in the near future. We give thanks to God for this wonderful gift!

Kitchen Countertops

As part of the insurance claim from the basement flooding last November it included being able to replace all of the countertops in the kitchen. If you are interested in the old ones, please contact the church office within the next two weeks to stake your claim to them. If there are no takers, they will be donated.

Outreach Opportunities

Many are experiencing displacement and hunger in our communities right now. As the church, we are called to act for justice for those in need. While it is difficult to take up collections in the church at this time, the need and opportunities to give are still there. Listed below are area organizations who minister to those in need.

Marinette/Peshigo/Southern Menominee County areas:

Salvation Army

80 West Russell St. Marinette (715) 735-7448 Food Pantry on Tuesdays Thursdays. Due to COVID-19, please call ahead. If you would like to donate, they are accepting monetary gifts, non-perishable foods, laundry, hygiene and cleaning supplies (NO CLOTHING PLEASE!!)

Menominee Residents:

Resurrection Parish

2607 18th St. Menominee (906) 863-3405. Please call the Resurrection Church for more information regarding food pantry hours and what they are accepting

Marinette Residents:

NewCap

1939 Hall Avenue, Marinette (715) 732-4171 Food Pantry is Monday and Thursday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. If you would like to donate, non-perishable food, laundry, Hygiene and cleaning supplies. (NO CLOTHING PLEASE!!)

St. Vincent dePaul

1619 Main St. Marinette (715) 735-6956 Food Pantry (located in the back of the building) is open on Wednesdays 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. They are accepting perishable and non-perishable foods, laundry, hygiene and cleaning products, and clothing.

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EMMANUEL

Online Worship 9:00 a.m.

Livestreamed on our Facebook page

CONTACT US:

Phone: (906) 863-3431 Fax: 906-863-4193

Email: mail@e-mmanuel.com

Council President, Rhonda Pedersen

Email: elcpresident@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. Mark Laatsch - Cell Phone: 906-424-0003

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
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America