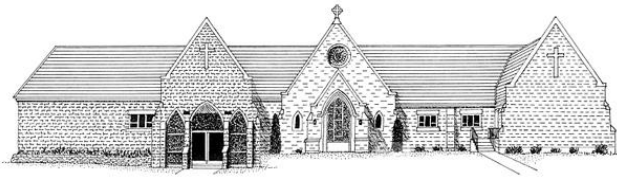


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Menominee,
Michigan

SEPTEMBER

2020

GOOD LUCK THIS YEAR

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work at it with all
your heart, as working for the Lord, not
for human masters, since you know
that you will receive an inheritance
from the Lord as a reward. It is the
Lord Christ you are serving.

FROM THE PASTOR

As I write this monthly piece, I am listening to and celebrating the celebrated bluesman, Stevie Ray Vaughan, whose untimely death happened thirty years ago today (August 27th) at the Alpine Valley Music Venue, just outside of East Troy, Wisconsin, southwest of Milwaukee. I've always been a fan of his music, and I his death is one of those "I remember where I was when I heard about it" moments. At the conclusion of the show that night, Stevie hopped aboard a helicopter back to Chicago where his hotel room was, but a thick fog had rolled in and the pilot, clearly unaware of his surroundings, and not being able to visually effectively navigate, flew the helicopter into the ski hill behind the venue. It wasn't until the next day that the wreckage was discovered and his death confirmed, an obvious dark day in the world of the blues.

As I write this, sadness and mourning have come to southern Wisconsin again, as we are in the midst of protesting, rioting and murder in Kenosha, Wisconsin, another community south of Milwaukee, and much closer to home for us than where many of these other similar encounters have happened. Whereas Stevie Ray Vaughan's music brought people together, and continues to do so, what has transpired in Kenosha is another moment of what has become an incredibly divisive and painful issue among American citizens and God's people alike, another divide in an ever-growing pile of division. The hate that often accompanies these feelings has left so many spiritually exhausted and teetering on the edge of hopelessness. We long for reconciliation and hope.

In the month of September our worship scripture will include familiar stories from the book of Genesis, including the Garden of Eden, God's promises to Abraham, and concluding with the story of God working through Joseph. To refresh you, this is a story of a young man who is repeatedly imprisoned and oppressed, but who never loses faith that God will continue to use him in some way, first as an interpreter of dreams and then as the second-in-command in all Egypt. It's a story of redemption and reminds us that, even in the darkest hours, God's will prevails.

God's will prevails. As followers of Christ, we are called to counter hopelessness with the story of God's love in Jesus Christ. It's a simple love story because it is a story that reconciles. Now is the time to share that story. Now is the time to proclaim, like Joseph, what God has done for us, what God continues to do for us, and what God will do for us. If we simply sit back and serve only as spectators, these paralyzing events will continue to unfold around us. As Christians, we have a responsibility to counter the levies of hate with the promise of love. Let us not only find the common ground that is Jesus Christ in that love, but let us be empowered to stand firmly upon it.

Stevie Ray Vaughan died thirty years ago today, but his music continues to live on with the countless millions who have appreciated the genius of his abilities. Just as it was the day that Stevie Ray Vaughan died, it's incredibly hard to see God's will shining through today's tragic events as well, but it is my hope and prayer that thirty years from now that these events led to reconciliation and hope. We cannot change the past, but, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can use the past to shape the future that God has carved out for us. As we live into that promised future, let us actively proclaim the cross, that truth that Christ died for all, so that those who have died these senseless deaths in Kenosha and other places where violent encounters have taken place, that their deaths are not in vain. Let us proclaim hope.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

EMMANUEL BUDGET NEWS
As of July 31, 2020

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

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Church office hours are Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The church office will be closed on Monday, September 7th, Labor Day. If you need to conduct church business outside of these scheduled times, please contact Pastor Mark at (906) 424-0003.
- Parking Lot Worship (weather permitting) Sundays, SEPTEMBER 13th, 20th, and 27th 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, September 20th**, 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 Fall 2020 Stewardship Campaign letter will be mailed out before the end of September. Please be looking out for this as you prayerfully consider your 2021 stewardship.

E-mail addresses and cell phone numbers

We are trying to update our e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers. This will help us to get information out to our congregation in a timely fashion. We would appreciate it if you would e-mail the church at mail@e-mmanuel.com with your e-mail address and cell phone numbers.

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!

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, they are still at church for the taking. If interested, please contact the church office to stake your claim to them. If there are no takers, they will be donated.

ELECTRONIC SIGN

We are so very close to having the necessary funds to install and landscape around the electronic sign! If you would like to contribute to this project, please contact the church office. The sign is purchased and received and ready to go. The plan was to have the sign installed this spring, but due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we've had to postpone getting this completed. The hope is now to ensure that the sign is installed by this fall.



Theodora Barry Bronold daughter of Todd & Tate Bronold was claimed in the waters of baptism on August 16.

Theodora's sponsor was Gunther DeDamos.

We give thanks for the power of the Holy Spirit to work in our world even as we find it difficult to navigate through these days.



Youth and Family Ministry

From the Director: Patti Treptow

It is the beginning of a new program year and our faith formation programming this fall will definitely be different. The Covid19 has caused us to look at much that we do in a new way.

As we plan and make changes to our learning programs during this pandemic, we do so with much thought, advice, and prayer. In the effort to keep our children and teaching staff safe, we will be providing an at-home Sunday school for the first semester of our program year. Other programming such as confirmation class and communion instruction is still in the planning stages. Parents will be contacted soon with more information regarding these changes.

There is nothing I miss more than the smiles and boundless energy of our children running through our church. Yes, this program year will feel and look very different, but we can look at this as an opportunity to grow our faith even deeper. Martin Luther stressed that parents have a vital role in teaching their children and that our faith starts and continues to grow through the home. Faith is passed down through each generation, making family the most important factor in nurturing faith. Parents, you got this! Remember when Christ is present, the home is church too! And, despite the pandemic, Emmanuel is still here to provide as much assistance as safely possible to help parents teach our faith to their children.

Change can be stressful and uncertain, but I am confident that with God guiding us, we will adapt to the changes we need to make and grow even stronger in our faith. So, while we may need to wait to come back into the building of Emmanuel, God is with us. And, each of you and every member of your family are the church.

Peace and God's blessing to you and your family, *Patti*

Faith at Home Sunday School

The Beatitudes

Starts Sunday, September 27th
Lesson video links and handouts will be
emailed to parents.



To supplement our Sunday school programming, we are looking for members young and old to be videotaped reading short Bible stories. The videos will be made available on our church social media platforms and website.

If you are interested, please contact Patti at church.

Because we are unable to be together in our church building on Sundays, we will share with you here the bible verses that are usually in the bulletin each week. You can read one each week, or all at once if you like!

September 6, 2020 (14th Sunday after Pentecost)

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. - Romans 13:10

Striving to keep the twin commandments to love God with all our being and love our neighbors as ourselves, we naturally care for the common good. We learn that what affects one really affects us all.

September 13, 2020 (15th Sunday after Pentecost)

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. – Romans 14:26-27

What is the common good? For Christians, it is expressed in the reign, or way, of Christ. We are accountable to God for how we treat one another; how we reflect the love of Christ through both our words and our actions.

September 20, 2020 (16th Sunday after Pentecost)

“Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous? So the last will be first, and first will be last.” – Matthew 20:15-16

In this parable Jesus reminds us that it is God's nature to be generous and that God has special concern for the poor and marginalized. We often assume that everyone gets what we deserve by the strength of our own will and bootstraps. God has other ideas and loves all people.

September 27, 2020 (17th Sunday after Pentecost)

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. – Philippians 2:3-4

When we consider the interests of others something beautiful happens: Our own interests seem less important, our wants fewer, and relationships flourish. Only by aligning our wills and lives with Christ may we grow into the fullness of life God desires and intends for us.

Stewarding the Common Good

Jesus taught, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

–Matthew 22:38

In Genesis 4, God asks Cain the whereabouts of Abel, his little brother whom Cain has just murdered in a jealous fit. Answering God’s question, Cain snarkily retorts, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” The correct answer for Cain is, “Yes, you are your brother’s keeper.” And the principle applies to us, too.

Woven through Scripture is God’s clear priority that we love and care for one another. The imperative finds clearest expression in the life and words of Jesus, who repeatedly teaches us to love everyone – friend, family, neighbor – even enemy. No exceptions.

Love for neighbor is a stewardship issue because we are responsible to care for all that God has entrusted to us, including community, relationships, and the welfare of others. Stewarding the common good is an essential component.

As North Americans, we haven’t done a very good job of stewarding the common good because our culture teaches us to “look out for number one,” as opposed to looking out for everyone. Consider how much of our political division and brokenness in criminal justice, education, healthcare, economics and government results from our thinking “what’s good for me,” rather than “what’s good for everybody.”

Stewarding the common good often involves giving up some measure of what would be good just for us. We sacrifice out of love to provide what is good for our neighbor. Is anything more Christian?

This year, especially as politics and division has embroiled and divided our country, study how the theme of loving our neighbor and stewarding the common good is woven through Scripture. What does it mean for you and the church? Think. Pray. Act.

--Rob Blezard

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Synod-sponsored Classes for Adults

The Northern Great Lakes Synod has launched a new series of classes for adults who want to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Bible, church history, Lutheran Theology, world religions, and more. **“Lifelong Faith Formation”** is geared to people who share a love and learning and have discovered that adult studies help them to grow in faith. The classes will be offered via Zoom this fall and winter. While discussions through computer screens are not ideal, online learning presents an opportunity to connect people from across the synod.

Sign-up soon for one or more of these classes which begin in mid-September:

Ecclesiastes Bible Study with Pastor Tommy Richter of Zion, Manistique

“FREEDOM”- A Study in Galatians with Reverend Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop Emeritus

Introduction to Biblical Greek with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn of Zion/Salem, Ironwood.

Bias in our Communities: Addressing Race in Rural America with Pastor Christina Forsythe of Porterfield/Beaver.

For more information, visit www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation or contact Sister Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org.

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