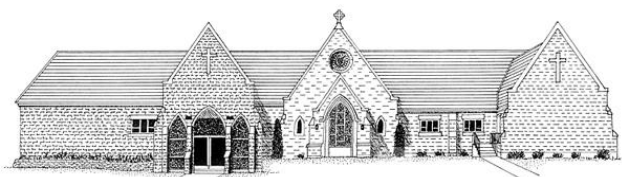


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan

OCTOBER

2020



WE ARE MOVING TO
VIRTUAL
WORSHIP

Beginning Sunday, **October 4th**, Emmanuel will no longer offer an outdoor parking lot worship service. For the immediate future, our Sunday morning worship services will be broadcast via Facebook Live at 9:00 Sunday mornings. The service can also be found on our website on the following Monday.

FROM THE PASTOR....

Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

My 2019 goal was to declutter, both in the physical as well as the mental realms. I had reached a point in my life where a lot of the stuff that was around me no longer held any value other than it's accumulative monetary worth (which Ebay and rummage sales have humbly reminded me, isn't very much!). Another intention of this decluttering was to then be freer to focus on 2020 as a year of accumulating experiences instead of stuff and to grow in new ways in my faith and understanding of my call into ministry.

Then 2020 came, and we know the rest of the story.....

Like most everyone else, 2020 has been an incredibly challenging year to accomplish these goals. Our family had made plans to go to Gulf Shores, Alabama for a spring break trip in March, which would have been a first for us (with March usually being the Season of Lent, it can be difficult for a pastor to get away during this time). It didn't happen. We tried to plan another trip to South Carolina for August. Again, it was a no-go. While I'm grateful that we've been able to sprinkle in a few minimal-contact day trips here and there, I have for the most part remained grounded in Menominee for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic; and with no end in sight for the foreseeable future, I'll continue to remain vigilant during these days.

So, like everyone else, I've had to adapt and adjust, and this time has thus presented a few new and unforeseen opportunities. For one, I've been able to continue and expand my decluttering project, primarily liquidating my compact disc collection. Having grown up in the 80's and early 90's when they were introduced into the market, CD's were a ballast of my youth, and have remained so for the intervening years. But, finally giving in to the wonders and magic of streaming music, podcasts, and other programming, I felt that it was finally the right time to get rid of my CD's while there is still a bit of a market for them.

I honestly thought that it would be a bit more difficult than it was to part with them. As I have packaged each one up to mail out to the wonderful Ebay buyers, I have had moments of reminiscing, remembering the day and venue I had purchased that particular disc from, some of those dates going back three decades or more. I remember opening up the sleeve booklets for the first time and reading the liner notes and the song lyrics, if they were published, a nod back to the same feelings that earlier generations had when purchasing long-play records. While it was fun to go back in time for a few moments, I must admit that any twinge of regret evaporated pretty quickly after I sealed the envelope and I haven't missed any of the discs yet. What I've learned is that the songs and images are firmly imprinted upon my heart and mind. The fact that I can bring up just about any one of these albums in an instant on my computer or my phone doesn't hurt matters either. In fact, I'm listening to one on my computer as I write this article.

As we now enter into the seventh month of this pandemic, I am using this CD experience as a guide for myself in other ways as well. We were blessed to be able to gather outdoors for the past three months, to be a gathering of God's people, to hear the Word, and to sing the hymns. We shared the Lord's Supper together and we were reminded of the promises of Baptism during several of our Sunday gatherings. But, as the colder weather now settles in and as we return, at least for the immediate future, to a sole virtual presence, we are invited to let those songs and words and fellowship be written upon our hearts and minds to draw from until we are able to gather together physically once again. The Gospel message that we've heard proclaimed from the pulpit on Sunday mornings for decades rings just as powerful during these days of isolation. The hymns that we've sung since birth still carry the same praises and joy even when we're not able to sing them together. In fact, in my time as a hospice chaplain and as an ordained pastor I have spent many days with Alzheimer's and Dementia persons who had lost the ability to carry on conversation, but could sing or hum a few bars from songs and prayers that had been a part of their lives from their earliest days and the deepest recesses of their memories. The Holy Spirit has a wonderful way of finding opportunities to keep us connected.

And that's what the Holy Spirit promises to do now as well. Our worship themes for the first two Sundays of October will be drawn from the Exodus, a 40-year wandering in the desert of God's people. This would not be the last time that God's people would be isolated, as the destruction of Solomon's Temple and the Babylonian Exile would later scatter the people for 150 years. But, no matter how long the people were apart and no matter how far apart they were, the Holy Spirit, as God had promised, has always brought them back together.

That truly means something. Even though we're not able to gather in-person to worship yet, the Holy Spirit keeps us gathered as one. We'll conclude the month of October with Reformation Sunday. The Reformation was an incredibly difficult time for the church as well, as the traditional Catholic church's presence and purpose were threatened and challenged. Again, the Holy Spirit intervened, and the church has continued to carry out its mission some 503 years later. The Bishop's office is currently putting together a Synod-wide worship service to be broadcast on that day, tying all God's people of the Upper Peninsula and northern Wisconsin together. That day is also the traditional Rite of Confirmation for our 9th Grade Confirmands. We prayerfully hope to be able to carry out this service and to broadcast it, a service where baptismal promises are affirmed and new ones are made as our young people enter into a deeper relationship with the church.

I guess the point that I'm trying to make is that while many of us worry that the health and purpose of the church may be compromised during this extended pandemic, we have to trust that the Holy Spirit will guide us through, exactly as the Spirit has during other times of trial. While we miss the comforts that our sanctuary and gathering provides, the Christ's promises are written upon our hearts and minds, truly defining who the church is and who we are as the church. May you find comfort and hope in what resides there until we gather again.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

OCTOBER 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 scheduled times, please contact Pastor Mark at (906) 424-0003.
- Facebook Live Worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
A prerecorded Synod-wide worship service for **Reformation Sunday, October 25th** will be published on our Facebook page earlier that morning. At present time, we are planning on broadcasting live the Confirmation Service at 9:00 am on that day. All services are available on our website the following Monday.
- **Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, October 25th**, Reformation Sunday. during the 9:00 worship service. All who wish to participate in Holy Communion are invited to prepare their elements in their home to be consumed during the service, or a Drive-through Safe Distancing Communion will be available for those who wish to receive it from 10:15 am – 10:45 am at the 14th Street building entrance.
- The Fall 2020 Stewardship Ministry will be celebrated throughout the month of October, culminating with Estimates of Giving being collected on Sunday, November 8th and Celebration Sunday being November 15th.

EMMANUEL BUDGET NEWS

As of August 31, 2020

*Your Contributions to the General Fund	\$149,670.98
*Your Approved Budget Amount	\$176,449.66

Faith at Home Sunday School

The Beatitudes and Bible Stories

Lesson video links and handouts will be emailed to parents each week.



Emmanuel is helping the Salvation Army with their Coats for Kids campaign. The Salvation Army is accepting **new** and gently used **winter** coats, snow pants, boots, mittens, hats, and warm blankets which will be given to needy families in the counties of Marinette and Menominee. The collection will run through the month of October. A collection box will be located in the 14th street entrance area.

Share your harvest, if you are able

John the Baptist went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.... And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." – Luke 3:4, 10-11

God's people have traditionally given thanks and celebrated God's abundance at harvest time, when farmers close out their growing season. In 2020, North Americans once again rejoice that our land has produced plenty of food. And many Americans, blessed with stable jobs and rebounding investments, can give thanks for a harvest of financial and personal blessings as well.

But millions of us and our neighbors are struggling. Covid-19 has caused massive joblessness, pushing countless families into poverty. Hunger and homelessness are skyrocketing. Federal, state and local safety-net programs are breaking, and food banks, shelters and other charities are overwhelmed.

The rising need presents an opportunity for God's people who are blessed with more than enough to help siblings in need. This year, consider celebrating your harvest of blessings not only by giving thanks but also by donating generously – of your time, talent, money or goods – to a local food bank, homeless shelter, soup kitchen or charity. Our congregations could lead this effort with a campaign, "Harvest of Giving."

Our hurting, struggling neighbors need to know not only that Covid-related misfortune is not their fault, but also that God and God's people are standing with them, supporting them with love and help. The best way is for those who are blessed with an abundant harvest to share it with those whose harvests are lean.

-Rob Blezard

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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!

October 4, 2020 (18th Sunday after Pentecost)

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.” – Matthew 21:43

Ouch! Jesus’ words, directed at the Pharisees who constantly test him, point to the importance of bearing fruit. God promises an abundant harvest with more than enough to share, but we must do our part to cultivate, nurture, and bring to fullness all the bountiful gifts of God, both in our own lives and in the Body of Christ.

October 11, 2020 (19th Sunday after Pentecost)

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. – Philippians 4:6

“Will there be enough?” Many are asking this question in the midst of growing economic uncertainty and fear. Christians know that this is the wrong question. With God there is always enough and a little bit more—enough to share. If this question crosses your mind, remember Paul’s words to the Philippian church. Don’t worry; give thanks and pray. God will provide a way.

October 18, 2020 (20th Sunday after Pentecost)

“I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.” – Isaiah 45:3

We share God’s abundance through our hands and work, but is still the abundance of God, who loves us and desires good for all creation. How might your hands sharing God’s abundance help point others to Jesus?

October 25, 2020 (21st Sunday after Pentecost)

“So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.” - 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Paul, Silas, and Timothy write these words that embody Jesus’ response to the Pharisees in this week’s gospel. How can we reflect the great commandment as steward’s of God’s abundance? What gifts might you bring to share?

October 25, 2020 (Reformation Sunday)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. – Psalm 46:1

When we are used to an abundant harvest, it can be shocking to experience scarcity. It is wise to remember that God is the source of all things. We all have something to share from God's abundance—perhaps a smile or kind word is the blessing someone needs. If you are not in a position to give resources, then by all means give love and compassion.



***Lucca Gerald Theuerkauf**, son of Philip and Krystal Theuerkauf was claimed in the waters of baptism on September 13. Lucca's sponsors were Shawna Connell and Kevin Brekke.*

***Gary Peterson** passed away September 4th, 2020 at Rennes Health Center. A private burial was held for the immediate family at Birch Creek Cemetery on Monday, September 14th. May all who mourn Gary's death be filled with the hope and promise of being reunited with Gary in the resurrection to eternal life.*

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.

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.



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



LOVE IN ACTION

Love Generously *“Dear Children, let us not love with words or speech,
but with actions and in truth.” 1 John 3:18*

September 30, 2020

Dear Emmanuel Friends in Christ,

Our worship at church is definitely different from what we are comfortable and familiar with. Therefore, our stewardship activities will be different also. We have been unable to conduct church business in our “normal” way, the council meetings are “zoom” meetings; we haven’t been able to attend weekly worship inside our church, in person, with our family, friends and congregation. But through all of this, we are reminded that, even though we are not physically “in church,” God has not deserted us. He is still with us, every day. We have seen this in the faithfulness and generosity of you, our congregation. Your continued giving of offerings during this time of great upheaval and confusion is amazing and uplifting. You understand that the work of the church continues and you have willingly and faithfully responded to the call.

This fall, to help us grow in our faith and commitment to Christ, we have selected “Love in Action – Love Generously” as the theme for the 2020 stewardship journey. This theme centers on using what God has entrusted to us and putting it into action. Giving is, first and foremost, an act of worship to the God who has blessed us abundantly, and who invites us to participate in the work that He is doing. We look at giving as an opportunity to take part in the good things that God is doing in the world through his church.

We will deliver this message to you as best we can, given the uncertainty of where we will be with worship at that time. If we

should be lucky enough to be able to attend worship in church, we will update you during those services. This Sunday, October 4 is the traditional “kick off” Sunday. On October 11, the service committee opportunities will be highlighted. The week of October 15th, the Estimate of Giving Packets will be mailed out if we are not yet in church, and on Commitment Sunday, November 8, we will joyfully return our estimates of giving by “drive up,” by mail, or you can always bring them to the church office. And finally, on Sunday, November 15, we will announce the gifts of time, talent and treasure that Emmanuel’s members have generously offered to God for 2021, either on Facebook Live, or, hopefully, in person.

God has not left us! He is with us always! We invite you to prayerfully consider renewing your current pledge, or if at all possible, increasing your pledge by \$1.00. These are trying times; we invite you take the opportunity to strengthen your relationship with God by putting your Love In Action through giving. Thank you for faithfully accepting Christ’s call to membership at Emmanuel, and thanks be to God for His eternal and ongoing faithfulness to that call and to our common mission.

Emmanuel’s Stewardship Committee
Kathy Bero, Cookie Kramer, Connie Taccolini,
Debbie Villas, Jeff Hines, Pastor Mark Laatsch

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EMMANUEL

**Online Worship 9:00 a.m.
Livestreamed on our Facebook page**

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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

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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