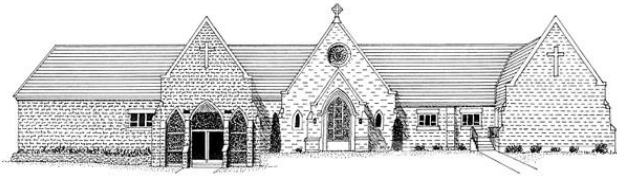


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Menominee, Michigan

NOVEMBER

2020



All Saints' Day
November 1

Stewardship Activities

Commitment Sunday - November 8

Celebration Sunday - November 15

Christ the King Sunday
November 22



FROM THE PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At the beginning of October when we moved our Sunday worship back indoors for the virtual broadcast, the altar candles would not light prior to our first service. After investigating, I realized that since the last time that they had been lit that the oil in them had gone down far enough that there was not more going into the wick. From not being used for so long, the wick had dried up and pulled itself up away from the remaining oil. I added oil and the candles have worked fine ever since.

About two weeks ago we were in the basement checking out the new countertops and sink that have been installed in the kitchen, when I noticed that the pilot light to the stove was not lit. What was so overwhelming about this was not that it wasn't lit (that's an easy fix), but instead how long it had taken me to realize this fact. The basement floor, if you remember, had been replaced back in late March and early April. The stove had to be turned off and moved to install the floor. When it was put back and hooked back up, the pilot light was never lit. It took five months for me to notice this, because there has been no use for it during this time.

Last Sunday, Reformation Sunday, as I was getting ready for the Rite of Confirmation service, I put on the microphone that I use for worship for the first time in six months so that I could speak audibly to our Confirmands, along with their family members who were scattered throughout the sanctuary. The microphone did not turn on. When I had last put it away in March, I had failed to remove the battery from the belt pack and the battery had completely lost its charge. I was able to find another one, and it worked fine throughout the entire service.

These incidents have been great reminders to me of the importance of continuing to be attentive to all aspects of the church, great and small, all over which I've been called to steward as your pastor. What I have learned during these many months is that it is very easy to push away or ignore the little things as I am constantly reframing the bigger picture. Unfortunately, it has not only been these physical reminders. I will freely admit that my faith has been challenged during these many months as I tie so much of my faith into what transpires on any given Sunday. To make a long story short, there is much that I am missing, and it is taking its toll on my spiritual and mental well-being. In having conversations with many of you during these months, I know that I am not alone.

We are missing the gathering of God's people in song together, expressing our praise and worship with our voices. Unfortunately, with congregational singing being among the most significant ways to transmit coronavirus, there is simply no way that we can sing together until there is some sort of coronavirus defense in place. My thoughts go immediately to Christmas Eve. It means that a full church singing beloved and familiar Christmas songs together simply can't happen this year. We will miss that; but, I do want to stress, that doesn't mean that the church can't, and shouldn't, and won't be instrumental in continuing to guide us in our Christmas worship in some way, shape, or form this year. All options are prayerfully being assessed and considered as to how the church can still be a Christmas gathering point.

As well, I am missing the opportunity of the congregation to share in the life and milestones of the church. While I am grateful that our Confirmation class was small enough this year that we were able to safely gather Confirmands and limited family members into the sanctuary for the Rite of Confirmation, there is no doubt that the presence of our

congregation, many of you being those who had made promises during these young people's baptisms, and who have served as Sunday School teachers and mentors, were deeply missed by not being in the sanctuary. Yes, we were able to Facebook Livestream the event, but the hugs and handshakes that accompany this day were not there. The very same could be said for our fellowship opportunities.

There is simply a big, gaping hole in all of the places that God's people are supposed to be physically occupying that simply can't be filled by a virtual presence. We were created for relationship. We were created to be together, to share our joys and to bear one another's burdens. When the coronavirus first started one of the warnings that came from mental health professionals was the detriment that this would have on those who were going to be isolated from family and friends. We're seeing information coming out now that is affirming this reality in that many are simply losing the will to live in this isolated existence. I've said it many times before, and I'll say it again: this is not natural. This simply cannot become our new norm.

When you put all of this together, it can be pretty easy to get down right now, but we are a people of hope, so we turn to that hope. I learned from these incidents of the past weeks that fixes are readily available. A little oil in the candles, a little light in the stove, and a brand-new battery in the microphone belt pack, and everything is good to go. It really can be as if we don't miss a beat.

The same mindset must be in our time of waiting because God's presence in our church and in our lives is no different. When I was in Sunday School and Confirmation all those years ago, during our worship we'd routinely sing a song called, "Pass It On." The first verse and refrain go like this: "It only takes a spark, to get a fire going; and soon all those around, will warm up with its glowing. That's how it is with

God's love, once you've experienced it. The Lord of love, has come to me, I want to pass it on." (I imagine that a few of you were able to sing these words as well as you read them!)

It only takes a spark to get a fire going. What a wonderful reminder that even during these difficult times where it seems that so much is being lost and so much is being missed, that all it takes is a spark to once again reignite that flame of faith that exists within us. Hold on to that spark, for it reminds us that once we are able to sing again, that the words that will come out of our mouths will sound so much sweeter, and that the hugs that we share with one another in the narthex will feel that much more wonderful.

Hold on to that spark because it reminds us of the importance of being attentive to all of the little things in our lives of faith, which really are what make all of the big things happen. Hold on to that spark, because that spark is what will keep you vigilant until we can gather once again, and do so safely, banded together with the purpose to which we've all been called, and that is to share the love of Jesus Christ to all the world.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE

Emmanuel and Bethel Lutheran Churches are working together to provide a virtual Advent midweek service titled, "*The Journey to Bethlehem.*" Pastors Scott, Mark, and Doug will dwell on the journeys of Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds. Be watching for more information, which will be made available in the December Messenger.

NOVEMBER 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.
- Facebook Live Worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m. **Sunday, November 1st is All Saints Sunday.** This worship service will be contemplative as we remember all who died to sin in the waters of baptism, as well as all those who were born into their eternal homes during the past year. Their names will be read and a bell will be rung for each saint.
- **Sunday, November 8th, is Commitment Sunday.** You may mail in your commitment form, drop it off at the office, or, for those who choose to do so, you will be invited to drive through the 14th Street Parking Lot from 10:00 – 10:30 and drop off the Commitment Card, which was mailed to you in early October. Please prayerfully consider what you can offer to the church in 2021, both financially, and in person.
- **Celebration Sunday is November 15th,** the day that we acknowledge and celebrate the committed giving for 2021.

Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, November 22nd, Christ the King Sunday. This will be offered virtually during the Livestreamed worship, or drive-thru at the 14th Street entrance, from 9:45 am – 10:15 am.

EMMANUEL BUDGET NEWS

As of September 30, 2020

*Your Contributions to the General Fund	\$164,499.87
*Your Approved Budget Amount	\$198,584.06

Rite of Confirmation

Our 2020 confirmands who were instructed in the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran Church affirmed their baptism on Reformation Sunday, October 25th.

Congratulations Confirmands!



Brian Anderson

Emma Heider

Hazel Knutson

Brody Nerat



Bodhi Edward Molnar, son of Stephen & Loveleen Molnar was claimed in the waters of baptism on October 3. Bodhi's sponsors were Heather Cline and Kathleen Molnar.

Mikenzie Sophia and **Hunter Todd Powers**, children of Michael & Susan Powers were claimed in the waters of baptism on October 4. Mikenzie's sponsor was David Machalk. Hunter's sponsors were David Machalk, Alan Doepke, Brian Doepke and Jennifer Tickler.



Ward Uecke passed away September 28. Due to COVID-19, a memorial service will be held at a later date. May all who mourn Ward's death be filled with the hope and promise of being reunited with Ward in the resurrection to eternal life.

Sunday, November 1st, is **All Saints' Sunday** in the church. Traditionally, this is the festival day which we remember Emmanuel's members who have entered into new life eternal with Christ. Saints are all the baptized in Christ, so for All Saints Sunday, we include those who were baptized this year, intertwining the lives of all the saints into the promise and hope of Everlasting Life. On this day we remember all who were baptized and began their work during the past year, as well as all those who completed their labors. Thus, we toll the bell for....

For All the Saints Who All are One in Thee....
(**Baptismal date**)

Jack Jeffrey Barley 11-3-2019

Evelyn Jean Baublitt 11-3-2019

Colson Benjamin Kolaszewski 11-16-2019

Blake Elizabeth Kolaszewski 11-16-2019

Camelly Penny Lorraine Gleisner 1-12-2020

Colin Robert Gleisner 1-12-2020

Theodora Barry Bronold 8-16-2020

Lucca Gerald Theuerkauf 9-13-2020

Bodhi Edward Molnar 10-3-2020

Mikenzie Sophia Powers 10-4-2020

Hunter Todd Powers 10-4-2020

For All the Saints Who from Their Labors Rest...
(Completed their earthly life in the past year)

Marilyn Leverich 11-8-2019

Dale Sieman 11-17-2019

Randy Tharp 1-20-2020

Faye Techmeier 1-20-2020

Faye Ruleau 3-16-2020

Hazel Peterson 3-24-2020

Bennie Kamin 4-26-2020

Stephen Parrish 4-28-2020

Gary Peterson 9-4-2020

Ward Vecke 9-28-2020

Prayer of the Day for All Saints Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Emmanuel's Outreach Projects

Christmas Gift Card Collection



This year, because of the Covid-19 pandemic concerns, we will be giving gift cards instead of our traditional food and gift collections to families and individuals in need in our community.

The Outreach Committee is asking those congregation members who are interested in helping to make Christmas a bit brighter for those in need, to purchase a gift card in any amount from a local store or gas station and bring the card to the church office by **Monday, December 7th**. Please be sure the store name is clearly identified and the dollar amount is stated on the card or card holder. The cards will be organized by store/amount and distributed to the families we receive from Rainbow House and individuals from Haven of Hope and the community.

Emmanuel's Confirmation Pictures

Several years ago, the standing display frame which contained the pictures of Emmanuel's Confirmation classes was dismantled because it had irreparable damage. The pictures were removed to be placed into another display. Unfortunately, after the pictures were removed, they were placed somewhere which the church staff is unaware of. If you know where these pictures may have been placed, or if they were taken from the church at that time, would you please contact the church office and let us know. Thank you!

Let Your Thankfulness Show

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances!--
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Sages, mystics and prophets through the ages have taught us that cultivating an attitude of thankfulness will not only help us grow as disciples, but thankfulness will also deepen our connection neighbors and give us happier, more fulfilling lives.

And how do you cultivate thankfulness? First and always, through prayer. Consider how many of the Psalms offer thanks, or how often the Apostle Paul gives thanks for the people and blessings of his ministry. Pray always – and always with thanksgiving. Keep a “blessings list” and pray through it daily.

Giving thanks to God can nourish thankfulness in your own heart, and you can also help encourage thankfulness in your community by developing a habit of thanking others – verbally, by text or email, or with cards and notes.

Since our national holiday of Thanksgiving takes place in November, this month offers the perfect opportunity to start.

Throughout November, look for every opportunity to thank someone for any reason, big or small. It could be a stranger who holds a door open for you, a clerk who rings up your sale, or a neighbor who does you a favor. Keep track of the number of times you can say “thank you.” You may be surprised. For fun, compete with others to see who can say “thank you” the most times in November.

In the process of saying “thank you” you will not only develop a habit that will deepen your soul, you will also change your relationship with neighbors, your community and our world. And that will be a real cause for thanksgiving.

-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 Bible verses that are relevant and appropriate for your personal stewardship practices. You can read one each week, or all at once if you like!

November 1, 2020 (All Saints Sunday)

“I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.” –Psalm 34:1

Today we begin our culture’s month of thanksgiving by giving thanks for the lives of the saints now at rest. This week spend time thanking God for those who have helped form your faith and encouraged your discipleship walk.

November 8, 2020

“But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” – Amos 5:24

Through the prophet Amos, God condemns hollow displays of religiosity. What God desires is action – justice and righteousness – ever-flowing from the hearts of those who love the Lord. Act on your thankfulness this week by working for justice in your community.

November 15, 2020

“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Do or do not. There is no try,” said *Star Wars* character Yoda. Notice there is no “try” in Paul’s instructions either. We can act on our thankfulness to God by encouraging others and building one another up in Christ’s name. Who needs your encouragement this week? How will you act on that need?

November 22, 2020

“And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”— **Matthew 25:40**

When our thankfulness translates into action and service to “the least of these,” we may never fully realize the ripple effects. How might you show gratitude to God in tangible ways that lift up your neighbor in need?

November 29, 2020

“And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”— **Mark 13:37**

Advent calls us to pay attention and to look for signs of Christ in the world. As we enter a new season of the church year, we continue to give thanks and show gratitude. Pay attention. Look around. Opportunities to be a blessing to others abound!

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.



The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ... Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ... Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.'

~Genesis 32.22 ff

Dear Friends in Christ,

Have you seen those social media memes about the year 2020? There's a picture of an outhouse on fire and the caption reads, "If 2020 were a scented candle...". 2020 is the year your peanut butter toast falls face down, your pizza loses its toppings in the oven, and your keys are locked into your running car. Between the pandemic, killer hornets, early snow, a divided country, and an election year, you are not alone if you think you've had just about enough of 2020.

Jacob of Genesis in the Bible has also had enough. He has had enough of being estranged from his brother, Esau, enough of being considered a cheat and a heel (which is what the word "Jacob" means), just enough. So he is on his way home to make amends, and he's worried. He knows his brother has every right to kill him, every right to still be angry (Feel free to read the whole story in Genesis). So Jacob sends all his wealth, his family, everything he owns across the river, Jabbok, and he's left alone.

Until, that is, a man, presumably a very earthy angel, comes and wrestles with him. All night long they struggle. Talk about a dark night of the soul. As Jacob wrestles with this stranger, he also wrestles with his fears, his doubts, his guilt, his hopes of reconciliation, every instance of where he really has cheated someone or been less of the man that he wants to be. And then as dawn breaks, the stranger seeks to break Jacob's hold and leave. But Jacob will not let him go, not until he receives a blessing. This is where I think we are, in so many ways. We have been wrestling with our hopes and fears, struggling with an uneasy

estrangement from neighbors, friends, and family that we either disagree with or that we miss terribly. As the election results are delayed, as the pandemic continues and case numbers rise, as the days grow shorter and the dark nights lengthen, remember Jacob, remember to hold on, remember to hold on for blessing.

Jacob holds on and receives the blessing of a new name. No longer will he be named cheat and heel, but rather Israel and the father of a nation. I encourage you too, to hold on for blessing and receive the name “Resilient,” “Peacemaker,” “Survivor of 2020.”

Because our night isn’t over yet. We are still wrestling with fears and uncertainties, struggling with divisions and the need for reconciliation. Election results will take some time. Please wait. A vaccine will take some time. Try to be patient and be your best self. And just hold on, hold on for blessing. The day will come when our dark night will be over. We might, like Jacob, be a bit bruised when the new day dawns. But our journey towards making amends will continue. I pray that friendships will be renewed, divisions reconciled, and we will all emerge as a better version of ourselves.

Hold on for blessing.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EMMANUEL

Online Worship 9:00 a.m.

Livestreamed on our Facebook page

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Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at
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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