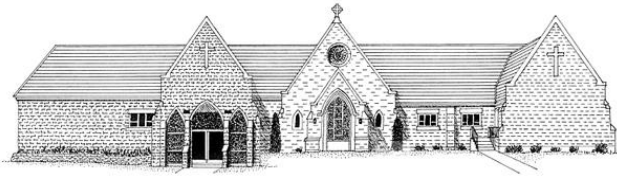


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Menominee,
Michigan

FEBRUARY

2021

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

Return to In-Person Worship information inside

FROM THE PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

In less than two weeks we will usher in Lent, the six weeks designated as a time of prayer and fasting in preparation for Easter, the day of our Lord's triumph.

While our intentions are noble to honor this six-week period, the truth is, there are a lot of distractions during that same time period that may throw us off course. Traditionally, during Lent we experience March Madness, St. Patrick's Day, warmer weather and the first day of spring, and spring break, just to name a few. These are celebratory times, sometimes contradicting the intentional spiritual disciplines that accompany our Lenten journey. So, how do we balance these seemingly polar opposite tugs in our lives?

The simple answer, if there is one, is just by being. We are going to resume a restricted in-person worship for Lent, and one of the reasons why I feel that this is the right time to resume this practice, is that church can, and should be, an intentional driving force behind Lenten spiritual practices; so, we will use this six weeks of worship to do just that. Our worship experiences will focus on not only hearing the Word proclaimed and preached, but carving out intentional time in worship to meditate on that Word and to engage in prayer as to what that Word means to us as we depart from worship and go back out into a world where the pandemic and our accommodations to it are very much still in play. It will undoubtedly be a very different kind of worship than we are accustomed to; but that doesn't mean that it's not worship. It will still very much be worship, but worship with a different practice.

Because, isn't that what Lent really is about? It is about engaging in six weeks of intentional change. It's about turning our focus from ourselves to God, a return to the Lord. With that focus in play, we will still be able to participate and enjoy all of those other rites of spring, but will do so with a clearer focus of what they

really mean, that being, that all of it is gifts of God, meant to provide us with joy and hope.

May you all be filled with the promise and power of hope as we embark on this Lenten journey together. Thanks be to God, who wins out in the end and secures our victory over sin, death and the devil, for all time, beyond Lent, beyond a pandemic, and beyond time as we know it.

In Christ

Pastor Mark

Returning to In-Person Worship!

After months of prayerful deliberation and closely monitoring COVID cases and infection rates in our area, we are comfortable returning to a restricted in-person worship experience beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, as well as in all the Sundays of Lent, beginning February 21st. A restricted worship means that masks will be required, there will be no congregational singing, and there will be no fellowship opportunities, among other practices. The Emmanuel Worship Committee has put together a plan that strives for our in-person worship experience to be as safe as possible and will be in place for these gatherings. While I know that some of you may disagree with these requirements, they are firm and non-negotiable at this point in time. The hope is that current accommodating COVID trends continue and that after Easter we can consider implementing more of our traditional practices back into our worship, but we will address that at the appropriate time. If you are hesitant to return to in-person worship yet, please, honor your own gut feelings and stay home. We will continue to livestream the service on Facebook Live every time we worship. As well, if you have any symptoms of any kind of infectious illnesses, please stay at home. The last thing that we want is for the church to be turned into any kind of super spreader point. Lastly, I will continue to monitor local COVID trends, and should infection rates begin to rise, case number and hospitalizations go up, or if there are any local outbreaks, I will not hesitate to discontinue in-person worshipping until it is safe to do so again. As I stated during the annual meeting, I have lost an uncle to COVID, many of our members have lost loved ones to it, and we have lost church members to it. We will continue to respect this situation and will always ensure that the love of God's people is enacted by ensuring those people are as safe as possible. -- Pastor Mark



You are invited to walk with us through the season of Lent as we consider “Reflections on the crucifixion of Jesus Christ” under the theme of CROSS WORDS.

Words are important and we all know that there are many CROSS WORDS that are heard in our interactions with others in our world.

But not all of the words connected with the crucifixion of Jesus are negative and hostile. Many are positive and helpful to us as we make our journey together through life.

We will not meet in person for these midweek services, but they will be available on Facebook Live each Wednesday of Lent, broadcasting live at 10:00 am, and being available on our Facebook Page and website following.

Lenten Worship Services

In our time together, we’ll consider the following CROSS WORDS:

| | | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| ANGER | February 24 th | Pastor Scott Ehle, | Anger | | |
| HOPE | March 3 rd | Pastor Mark Laatsch | Hope | Joy | Peace |
| JOY | March 10 th | Pastor Ken Michaelis | | G | |
| | | | | R | |
| PEACE | March 17 th | Pastor Nick Johannes | | A | |
| | | | | C | |
| GRACE | March 24 th | Pastor Doug Schoen | | E | |

FEBRUARY 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.
- **Ash Wednesday in-person/Facebook Live Worship will be on Wednesday, February 17th at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm.** (If you are planning on attending in-person, please refer to the Return to In-Person Worship article before arriving).
- **Sundays in-person/Facebook Live Worship will begin on Sunday, February 21st. We will offer only one service, at 9:00 am.** If you are planning on attending in-person, please refer to the Return to In-Person worship article before arriving.
- **Safe Distancing Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, February 21st** during the 9:00 worship service. Drive-through Safe Distancing Communion will then be available for those who wish to receive it from 10:00 am – 10:30 am at the 14th Street building entrance.
- Midweek Lent services, CROSS WORDS, will be broadcast virtually beginning Wednesday, February 24th. Please see the Lenten Worship Schedule for information.

EMMANUEL BUDGET NEWS

As of December 31, 2020

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| *Your Contributions to the General Fund | \$240,563.86 |
| *Your Approved Budget Amount | \$266,325.00 |

Thank you to everyone for you incredible and generous contributions during a unique and trying time in our history. We are blessed and empowered to celebrate God’s love and God’s presence in 2021 because of your commitment!

Church Council

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Ronda Pedersen | President |
| Matt Vanni | Vice President |
| Terrie Porras | Secretary |
| Debbie Villas | Treasurer |
| Laura Magrane | Youth Council Member |

Jim Briar
Linda Davis
Stacey Hansen
Boni Nerat-Heckel
Jeff Hines
Betty Kohrt
Bill Kuhnlein
Jeremy Sallgren
Bill Taccolini

The 2020 Annual Report was presented to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 24, 2021 after the 9:00 a.m. worship service. We had a quorum of eighty-five active voting members to achieve the requirement. The 2021 Budget was approved, various reports were reviewed, and three new council members and one youth representative were elected to serve on the council. We welcome Jim Briar, Linda Davis, Betty Kohrt and Laura Magrane (youth rep) to the council. Thank you for your dedication, commitment and faithfulness to Emmanuel, as well as your persistence to get this work done during this difficult time!



*With
Heartfelt
Sympathy*

**Called to their promised
eternal home**

Marilyn Swanson passed away December 28, at home in Bonita Springs, Florida. Our sympathy to her children Terry (Michael) Wickman, Michael (Nicole) Swanson and Kristin (Jeff) Easter.

John Danielak passed away January 2. Our sympathy to his son, John (Jeanie) Danielak, and all John's family and friends.

Vernon "Bud" Haglund passed away January 11 at the Luther Home. Our sympathy to his wife, Carolyn, and sons, David (Paula), Jeffrey (Linda) and Craig (Sue) and their families.

May all who mourn the death of a loved one be filled with the hope and promise of being reunited in the resurrection to eternal life.

Faith at Home Sunday School
The New Testament

Learn about the life of Jesus and the many parables Jesus used to teach.



Lesson video links and handouts will be emailed to parents. Videos will also be available on our church website and our YouTube channel at: Emmanuel Lutheran Church—Menominee, MI

Racial Equity Challenge

What is the Racial Equity Challenge?

Participating in the Racial Equity Challenge is a personal commitment to devote time during Lent to engage in provided resources. Each day of the challenge will be a new opportunity to consider different voices and perspectives—a time to read, watch, listen, and learn.

When does the Challenge take place?

The Challenge begins February 18 and runs through March 29.

What do I need to do?

Each participant will access the Challenge material here on our website and be encouraged, but not required, to join a cohort that will meet weekly for conversation via Zoom.

How much does it cost?

Participating in the Racial Equity Challenge is free to all participants!

When do the cohorts meet?

There are 6 different cohorts to choose from (listed below). Once you have chosen the cohort that works best in your schedule, be sure to register at the link below (cohorts are limited to no more than 10 participants each). Your cohort leader will be in touch prior to your first meeting with Zoom information.

- Sundays 1pm CT/ 2pm ET
with Pr. Christina Forsythe of Porterfield/Beaver
- Sundays 3pm CT/ 4pm ET
with Pr. Tommy Richter of Zion, Manistique
- Sundays 6pm CT/ 7pm ET
with Pr. Steve Gauger of Calvary, Rapid River
- Mondays 10am CT/ 11am ET
with Pr. Jared Howard of Faith, Calumet
- Mondays 3pm CT/ 4pm ET
with Pr. Rich Likeness of Ascension, Minocqua
- Mondays 6:30pm CT/ 7:30pm ET
with Pr. Keith Kolstad of Zion, Marinette

Greetings Fortune Lake congregations!

We are gearing up summer camp at Fortune Lake in 2021! Although there will be stringent efforts to keep our campers and staff safe, we feel good about gathering again on the shores of Fortune Lake to experience Jesus's love through outdoor ministry.

Our COVID-19 protocol for summer camp is nearly complete and will be available on our website by this weekend. The safety of our camp community remains our utmost priority, and we will be implementing American Camp Association, CDC, and state and regional public health recommendations.

Registration opens Monday, February 1 at 9am CT / 10am ET. Due to reduced capacities, we anticipate some programs will fill quickly. Please encourage your families who are interested in camping to register early. All program details, costs, and registration links are available on our website:

www.fortunelake.org

Church scholarships are due in full to the Fortune Lake office by June 1. We have attached our updated church scholarship form, which is also available on our website. If you have any questions about the process, don't hesitate to reach out to our Office Manager, Deborah at officemanager@fortunelake.org or 906-214-2267.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry. You remain in our prayers.

Grace & Peace,
Amanda Rasner, Camp Director

**If you are in need of a camp scholarship
contact the church office.**



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” ~Romans 15:13

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

There is a scene from the movie, *The Shawshank Redemption* where the protagonist, Andy, is convicted of a crime he did not commit. He spends some 30 years in a dreadful prison until finally he escapes to begin a new life in a little oceanside village in Mexico. He sends a letter to his inmate friend, Red, and invites him to join him after Red is paroled from his own lifetime sentence for a regrettable crime he committed in his youth.

As we watch Red ride a bus towards Mexico, we hear his voice say, “I find I am so excited I can hardly keep a thought in my head. I hope I can make it across the border. I hope to see my friend and shake his hand. I hope the Pacific is as blue as it has been in my dreams. I hope.”

Hope is a powerful force. It pulls us forward through the present as we reach for a different future. It was hope that made Andy’s and Red’s prison time more bearable. And it is hope for so much that pulls us forward from our present circumstances toward a future that promises:

- an end to the pandemic.
- gathering around tables with coffee-filled cups and bakery in hand.
- laughter and conversation once again filling fellowship halls, restaurants, and living rooms.
- voices raised in songs of praise, in harmony, with great gusto.
- ministry without masks.

I can hardly wait!

I Corinthians 13:13 proclaims, “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

The greatest of these IS love. But this year, in the year of our Lord 2021, our theme will focus on HOPE. Make no mistake, we need love and faith too. But right now, we *really* need HOPE.

As I write this, the inauguration looms large. Plans for armed and potentially violent demonstrations outside each state’s capitol building are being reported, and the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff has issued a public reminder to all military branches of their oath to defend the Constitution. It is more than a little unsettling that they felt such a reminder was necessary.

By the time you read this, whatever happens next week and before the end of January will be in the past. We all will have watched the news, heard the reports, and prayed over what right now has not happened yet.

And still, whatever is going to happen, does not change what we have always proclaimed to be true, that our hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ. What that means for our present circumstances has taken on more urgency. The more we feel the chaos and uncertainty of our present, the more we reach for that which is true and solid and constant.

I hope we find a way towards healing, in our congregations and in our nation. I hope as people of faith we have a witness that is authentic to the gospel message of Jesus. I hope our congregations and pastoral leaders can hold on a little longer. I hope. I hope.

*“O God our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home.”*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EMMANUEL

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

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