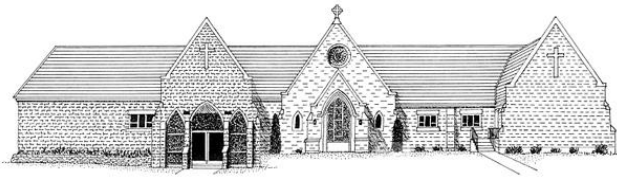


# THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Menominee,  
Michigan

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APRIL

2021

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## ***Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule***

### **Palm Sunday**

***Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. We will have in-person services at 8:00 am and 10:00 am with palms.***

### **Maundy Thursday**

***Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. We will have in-person services at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm with Holy Communion. 6:00 service will also include the Stripping of the Altar.***

### **Good Friday**

***Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will have one in-person service at 6:00 pm.***

### **Easter Sunday**

***Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. We will only worship virtually on Facebook Live at 9:00 am with Holy Communion.***

***Drive-through Communion will be offered from 10:15-10:45 am at the 14<sup>th</sup> Street entrance.***

# FROM THE PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

We are in what we might call a time of “in-between.” The calendar says we are now in spring, and, for the most part, what we see, feel, and hear when we step outdoors supports this. Snow is nearly extinct, robins have been spotted by most of us, and I’ve encountered many folks out and about in t-shirts and shorts. There is no doubt that the feeling of spring is all around us.

But then when I take my daily walks around Henes Park, I encounter the magnificent ice shove monuments on the east side of the park. While they are getting smaller, the mounds of compact frozen water maintain their intimidating presence nonetheless, reminding us that we’ve not yet fully turned the corner on spring. Witnessing the ever-changing water on the bay during the past week supports this as well. Just three weeks ago the bay was a vibrant community of ice boat racers and ice fishers. A week later, the bay was open water. Just a few days following that, as temperatures dropped again, it once again froze, and then for several days, toggled between being open water or a slushy entity. While the bay will finally completely open up and remain open for the next eight or nine months or so, it is showing us that there is no doubt that winter is still trying to press upon us.

For three days 2000 years ago, Jesus’ disciples must have experienced similar feelings of being “in-between.” When Jesus was put to death on the cross and his followers were hiding out, I imagine that their feelings swung between fear and hope, anxiety and apprehension, disappointment and wonder. Was this time of transition a moment to return to their lives prior to following Jesus or to forge ahead with a newfound fervor of sharing the news of God’s love? What were they to do? Where were they to go?

Of course, three days later, all of their questions were answered when the stone was rolled away to reveal the empty tomb. While they may have still been a wee bit apprehensive about what

moving forward looked like after the news of Jesus coming back to life was revealed to them (see doubting Thomas), there is no doubt that their future was secured, freeing them from the shackles of the past.

This time of “in-between” may very well be a good description of where we are in our pandemic lives as well. While it’s been absolutely wonderful for the past five weeks having God’s people in the church as we worship, there’s no doubt that it’s not the same as it was before and that it may never get completely back to the way it was before. Should area infection rates rise again or another COVID outbreak happen in our area, difficult decisions may have to be made, but we’ll cross that bridge if or when we come to it.

But, for right now, we forge ahead, and do so cautiously, yet optimistically, knowing that as long as we keep Christ in our future, our future is secure as well. I’ve started making hospital and nursing home visits again, renewing relationships that have been on hold for over a year now. After Easter we’ll return to our regular worship of 8:00 and 10:00, with Sunday School during our 10:00 worship. Yes, we’ll still have to be masking up and keeping many of our precautions in place for at least the next two months as people, like myself who have not yet been able to receive coronavirus vaccination, are able to get inoculated. But we do so, knowing that the time is coming which we’ll be able to move forward with greater assurances of our collective health, freeing ourselves of these temporary shackles as well.

And that freedom grants us license to go and to proclaim the Good News that is Easter – Christ is alive! It is a time of no more “in-between,” but is a time of a wide-open future. Let us move into that future with all of the hope and promise associated with it. Hallelujah! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!

In Christ,

*Pastor Mark*

# APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Church office hours are Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. **The church office will be closed on Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.** If you need to conduct church business outside of these times, please contact Pastor Mark at (906) 424-0003.
- **Sundays in-person/Facebook Live Worship will continue through April. We will now offer two services, at 8:00 am and 10:00 am on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>.** If you are planning on attending in-person, please be in compliance with all in-person practices, so that we can honor the health of all who gather here.
- **Safe Distancing Holy Communion will be celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> (no in-person worship) and Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>** during the 8:00 am and 10:00 am worship services. Drive-through Safe Distancing Communion will then be available for those who wish to receive it from 11:00 am – 11:30 am at the 14<sup>th</sup> Street building entrance.

## EMMANUEL BUDGET NEWS

As of February 28, 2021

<b>*Your Contributions to the General Fund</b>	<b>\$34,593.11</b>
<b>*Your Approved Budget Amount</b>	<b>\$40,431.66</b>

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!



## Sunday School is Re-Opening!

Sunday school classes will start on April 11 and run through May 23 at 10:00 a.m.

We are so happy to welcome our children back to Sunday school, but we want to do it safely. Here are some very important things to know:

CDC Covid19 mitigating guidelines will be followed.

- \* If your child appears ill or is running a fever please do not bring them to class.
- \* Use the one-way flow to and from classrooms by following the arrows on the floor starting at the 13<sup>th</sup> street stairway, through the hallway to the classrooms and back up the 14<sup>th</sup> street stairway.
- \* Social distancing will be maintained.
- \* All children will be required to wear a mask, as well as all teachers.
- \* Everyone will use hand sanitizer upon entry into the classroom.
- \* Each child will have their own designated area for learning as well as their own materials and supplies.
- \* All classrooms and materials will be sanitized after each class.

**Please call the church office or email Patti Treptow by April 6th if your child will be attending Sunday school.**

We need your child's name and their grade. This is important so we have enough materials and an individual learning space created for your child.

When you arrive at church, bring your child directly to their classroom. There will be no children's sermon during worship. Even though classes will look different, we are very excited to see your child! And, we want you to know that we are taking every precaution to keep all children and staff safe. If your child is unable to attend in person, our virtual lessons will still be made available and emailed to you each Sunday.



## First Communion Instruction

First Communion classes for our 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and any 7<sup>th</sup> graders who have not yet completed their preparation for Holy Communion, are being offered beginning April 25<sup>th</sup> and ending on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Classes will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Participants will receive their first Holy Communion with their family on Pentecost Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Letters and registration forms regarding these classes will be mailed to parents early next week. If you do not receive a letter, please contact the church office or Patti Treptow.

As we are doing with Sunday school classes, Holy Communion instruction will follow the same CDC mitigation guidelines as stated in the Sunday school announcement printed above in this newsletter. Any student not able to take communion preparation classes this spring, is welcome to do so next year.

We are looking forward to sharing with our children the exciting message of God's love and grace that is found in the Lord's Supper.



**Called to her promised  
eternal home**

Emmanuel mourns with the family of **Rhonda Christian**, who passed away on Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. A celebration of her life was held, March 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Pullman House in Menominee. May Jay, Lexi, Ali, and all who mourn, be filled with the promise of the resurrection to new life made possible by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

***The church has been informed that Bay Area Medical Center is now welcoming pastors to visit with patients in the hospital. Please contact the church if you or a loved one has been hospitalized and you would like a visit from Pastor Mark.***



**A Letter from Bishop Finegan**

Bishop Katherine's monthly article is available to all on the Northern Great Lakes Synod website, which is <http://www.nglsynod.org/>

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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