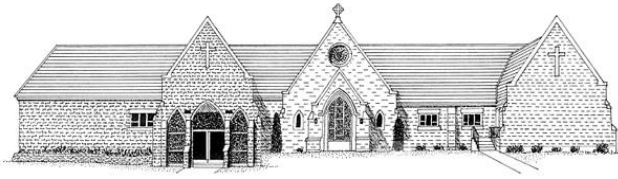


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan

May

2025



Draw us forth, God of all creation.

Draw us forward and away from limited certainty
into the immense world of your love.

Give us the capacity to even for a moment
taste the richness of the feast you give us.

Give us the peace to live with uncertainty,
with questions,
with doubts.

Help us to experience the resurrection anew
with open wonder and an increasing ability
to see you in the people of Easter.

- Author Unknown

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High,
to declare your steadfast love in the morning
and your faithfulness by night,
to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.
For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

How great are your works, O Lord!
Your thoughts are very deep!

—*Psalm 92:1-6 NRSVUE*

Did you know that Easter is not just one day? Easter lasts for 7 weeks, including Pentecost Sunday—a *week of weeks!* So, we celebrate in Easter joy throughout the month of May and into the first part of June this year. During this time, we continue to observe the resurrection and reflect upon the difference it makes in our lives. **Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!!**

Throughout Easter, we give thanks to God for the gift of life given through Jesus Christ. As the Psalmist wrote, generations BEFORE Christ: *It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High, to declare your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness by night.* It is indeed good to joyfully remember the gift of God in Christ's birth, life, teachings, miracles, death, and resurrection! Christ's coming showed, more than anything else—(and there are *LOTS* of other gifts from God!)—God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

God CAME! In Christ, God CAME among us.

God COMES! Through Christ's Ascension and the following gift of the Holy Spirit, God COMES among us daily.

God WILL COME! Throughout this life and the next, through our incarnation and our eternity, God WILL continue to COME.

Because of the resurrection, we are assured of this promise of God's continual coming! No matter what we do, how we fail, how broken we are, how perfect we THINK we are, or anything else we think gets in the way between us and God, God promises to COME. *For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.*

This life does indeed have its pains, heartaches, and troubles. In fact, all living things—people, creatures, and the Earth itself—are connected through a shared experience of suffering and hardship. As mortal creatures, we cannot escape such griefs. This shared reality encourages us to have compassion for other people and for all living things created by God; for when we know pain, we grow in compassion and understanding for others' pain. *How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep!* The compassion that Christ taught and lived during his incarnation becomes our goal during this fleshy life. As disciples of Jesus, we work to ease the pain, suffering, grief, and loneliness of others. This is good, holy, and important work. Yet, Easter teaches us that pain does NOT have the last word in this life or over our work! Suffering is not forever. Death will not come at the end—LIFE WILL COME!

As we travel through this Easter season, we continue to celebrate this life and the love of God in Christ that brings it to us. We will shout for joy, even if we are also currently in grief, because we are given new life both now and for eternity. *It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High, to declare your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness by night.*

Blessings to you always in the name of the One who continues to faithfully come to us each and every day with new life and love. **Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!!**

—Pastor Christine





As the cold of winter finally leaves and the first blossoms of spring appear, we are reminded of the beauty of renewal. Nature itself seems to awaken from a long sleep, stretching toward the sunlight in a quiet celebration of life. This time of year holds an even deeper meaning. With spring, comes Easter and with Easter comes the hope of the Resurrection.

The resurrection of Jesus is at the heart of our faith and is a powerful promise that death does not have the final word. On that first Easter morning, when the stone was rolled away and the tomb found empty, a new story began. It was a story of forgiveness, of grace, and of life made new. In much the same way, spring invites us into a similar story, one that God provides through nature each year. That from darkness comes light, from stillness comes growth, and from what seems lost comes something beautifully reborn.

Families can take this season as an opportunity to reflect together, not only on what the Resurrection means for our spiritual lives, but also on how God weaves that same message into the world around us. The blooming flowers, singing birds, and longer days are not just pleasant changes, they are divine illustrations of the life-giving power of God. Here are few ways for your family to enjoy these gifts from God:

1. Nature Walks with Purpose

Take a walk as a family and observe signs of new life. The budding trees, chirping birds, and fresh green grass. Talk about how each of these signs mirrors the new life Jesus brings us through His resurrection.

2. **Garden of Gratitude**

Plant a small garden or even a few seeds in pots. As you care for them and watch them grow, reflect on how God nurtures new life in our hearts and homes.

3. **Creative Expression**

Encourage kids to draw or paint something that represents new life; like a butterfly, an empty tomb, or a sunrise. Display these as reminders of both the season and the Savior.

4. **Prayer of Renewal**

Together, say a prayer asking God to renew your hearts, your relationships, and your sense of purpose as a family. Invite Him into the areas of your life that feel “wintered” and ask for His resurrection power to bring them to life again.

As we move through this beautiful season, let us not rush past it. Let us pause, notice, and give thanks for the empty tomb, for the risen Christ, and for the signs all around us that God is still in the business of making things new.

Blessings,

Patti Treptow, Director of Youth & Family Ministry



Youth Ministries

SUNDAY SCHOOL Palm Sunday Reflections





Sunday school classes are quickly coming to an end for the year. The last day is **Sunday, May 18th** where we will celebrate a great year of learning at Water Tower Park in Menominee during our regular Sunday school time. *See more information on the end of the year celebration at the bottom of this page.*

A special thank you goes out to our wonderful and dedicated Sunday school staff:

PreK/Kindergarten/1st : Madi Raygo, Elizabeth Aichner, Andrew Miller

2nd/3rd/ Grade: Ava Slawinski, Emma Stewart

4th/5th Grade: Patti Treptow

6th Grade: Pastor Christine and Patti Treptow

Sunday school Sub Teacher: Melissa Brown

Bible Story Sunday Team: Sharon Ayers, Kara Barley, and Patti Treptow



**Sunday School
End of the Year Picnic**

Sunday, May 18th, 9:45 - 11:15 a.m.

Water Tower Park - Menominee

To celebrate our Sunday school children and the close of our program for the year, we are having a picnic at Water Tower Park in Menominee.

The Little Lutheran's Committee and teachers are hosting our end of the year celebration. Our children will play games as well as enjoy the amenities of the park. Donuts, ice cream, juice/ water will be served.

Parents may drop off their children at the park by 9:45 a.m. so they have time to get to church for the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Teachers and chaperones will remain at the park until all children have been picked up by their parents. Rain location— the church fellowship hall.



Sunday, May 4th

FUN DAY!

for our 6th, 7th, & 8th graders

11:00 AM to 6:00 PM



GLOW Youth Group

7th-12th grade

EVERY Wednesday

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Join us at church for Bible devos, group discussions, food, games, and fun. ***Bring a friend!***



Our Glow youth hosted a Bingo party for the residents of the Luther Home in Marinette on Sunday, April 13th. They called the numbers, assisted the residents with their Bingo cards, handed out prizes

to the winners and visited with those who were there. At the end of the game, they helped serve cake and coffee. Thank you to our youth who gave of their time and blessed the residents who participated in this fun event.



Ignite Creative Arts

Afterschool Program

7th-12th grade youth

Wednesdays 3:30-4:30 pm, September through May
September through May

Last day for this program year is May 21st.



Mark Your Calendars!

Vacation Bible School

Tuesday—Thursday

August 5, 6, & 7

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Watch for more information on summer's favorite event!



Graduate Recognition

Sunday, June 1st, 9:00 a.m.

Emmanuel's high school graduates will be honored at our "Graduation Recognition and Blessing" during the 9:00 a.m. worship service on June 1st. A cake and punch reception will follow. The Carl and Marian Johnson Memorial Scholarship awards will also be presented during worship. A letter with more information on this special event will be going out soon to all parents of our high school graduates.



Light the Fire for Fortune Lake

Sunday, June 1 at 6:00 PM

Zion Lutheran, 2714 James St, Marinette

You are invited to Light the Fire for Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp! Join us for songs, stories, skits, and s'mores around a campfire. Bring your own blanket or lawn chair to sit on. There is no cost to participate, but donations for FLLC are welcome.

Contact Stefanie Ehle at
youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org with any questions.



FORTUNE LAKE
A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

**Summer
Camp 2025**

Camp dates for Fortune Lake summer camp are filling up fast. Register online at FortuneLake.org

Emmanuel has scholarship funds available.

Scholarship applications and more information on camp can be obtained in the church office.



5th Grade First Communion

Our 5th grade students completed four weeks of instruction during Lent to prepare for their First Holy Communion. The students and their families celebrated the Lord's Supper, with a symbolic Seder Meal, and participated in Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 17th.

We welcome the following to the Lord's Table:

Elizabeth Anderson

Emory Bryant

Taylor Sallgren



Please keep them in your prayers that God, through the Holy Spirit, will persist in increasing their faith and desire for God's Word and Sacrament.

First Communion Musings

At the final First Communion instruction session on Maundy Thursday, the youth were asked to complete the following statement:

"I want to take Holy Communion because..."

Here is what they said:

I get first Communion, and then Jesus' love and God's gift, and then I can take more Communion.

— Lizzy Anderson

I want to be closer to God and everyone who believes in him and to be forgiven.

— Emory Bryant

It's a chance to get closer to the Lord and it will help me remember Jesus and all he does for us.

— Taylor Sallgren



Former Emmanuel member Jerry Gentz passed away on Monday, March 31, 2025, at the age of 84. Jerry and Karen, his wife of 64 years, resided primarily in Janesville, WI where Jerry owned

and operated Gentz's County Market until 1991. After retiring, Jerry and Karen moved to Marinette and became members of Emmanuel. Karen was born and raised in this community. She is an aunt to Emmanuel member Debbie Nerat. When Emmanuel created a new staff position, Director of Programs and Operations, Jerry applied and was hired. Jerry and Karen then moved to Milton, WI to be near their three sons and grandchildren in the Janesville area. The funeral service for Jerry was held on April 4 at Hope Lutheran Church in Milton where he and Karen were members. Jerry served Emmanuel skillfully and faithfully, using his business acumen to oversee many of the practical aspects of operating a church, freeing the pastor to attend to pastoral ministry. Jerry was a man of strong faith and outgoing personality. We give thanks to God for Jerry's life and faith, and his service to Emmanuel. We pray that God will comfort Karen and her family with the hope of the resurrection.

Adult Ministries

Downsizing with Friends

Mondays at 9:00 AM

"Weight Loss on the honor system." Join us in the Fellowship Hall for Food Planning, Recipe Sharing, Fun Conversation, and more.

Yoga at Emmanuel

Tuesdays, 5:30—6 PM

NO YOGA IN MAY. CLASSES RESUME ON JUNE 3RD

\$8.00 per class. All abilities welcome for this gentle yoga class.

Prayer Group

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM

Come together to join in prayer for our community, church, and those in need of healing. *There will be no pressure for you to pray out loud.*

New people welcome!

Care & Share Alzheimer's Support

Wednesdays, 3:00—5 PM

A support group for caregivers of loved ones with Alzheimer's and other dementias is being offered at Emmanuel in the church narthex.

Emmanuel Women's Group

Thursday, May 1 at 1:00 PM

Join us in the Friendship room for Bible study and fellowship.

All women are welcome!

Congregational Financial Update

(through March 31, 2025)

Approved 2025 budgeted offerings: \$55,982.00

Amount ahead of approved budget: \$2,900.00

Total offerings and income received: \$63,374.00

Total expenses: \$64,847.00

Expenses greater than income by \$1,473.00

9:00 AM Summer Worship Schedule

begins on

Sunday, May 25

We will move to ONE worship service during the summer, at 9:00am. Summer worship time will continue from May 25 through August 31.

We'll see you at 9:00 this summer!



OUTDOOR Worship

June 8

July 13

August 10

Join us outside in the warm summer breeze *on the second Sunday of each month* this summer. Bring a deck or camp chair, if you have one, and wear your sunscreen. *ALL people, all ages are welcome!*

Report:

Emmanuel Lenten Giving Initiative — Lutheran World Relief

Our Lent giving goal was to raise \$1,945
— *in honor of the year LWR was founded.*

We raised \$1,594.

We didn't reach our goal, but we GIVE THANKS for your generosity! All offerings help support our neighbors in need. These offerings will be a great blessing for people throughout the world. Thank you for helping and showing love to our neighbors!



Utility trailer for sale by the church

We have a wooden utility trailer for sale that is 4' wide by 6' long. The tires for the trailer are 15" tires (*which are currently flat from lack of use*). It has the wiring for the brake lights and has a 1 7/8" hitch. The trailer can be seen to the left-hand side of the church when exiting through the back exit. The minimum bid will be \$150; the highest bid will get the trailer. **Contact Matt Vanni, of the Property Committee, or the church office.**



Emmanuel's Outreach Projects

Easter Baskets for our Shut-ins

The Outreach Committee delivered baskets filled with love and goodies to our shut-ins.



Sponsorship of the Messenger and weekly bulletin

If you would like to sponsor a 2025 monthly publication of the Messenger or a weekly publication of the bulletin in honor or memory of a person or event, please contact the church office.

***\$125 covers the cost of a Messenger publication
and mailing.***

\$30 covers the cost of a weekly bulletin.

Find-A-Pastor Paperwork, pt 2

You can help us answer questions about our church and community for the paperwork for our search for a pastor!

Join us in-between the services, from 9:15—9:45 AM:

Sunday, May 18

We will meet in the Friendship Room, by the narthex.

Find a sheet with the questions in the narthex on the table, so you can think about the questions ahead of time.



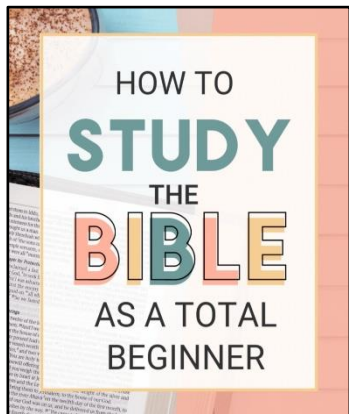
Church Directory—*Save the Date*

We are getting a new church directory made this fall. The photographers will be at our church on . . .

Sundays, October 19 & 26 to take pictures of our services and individual/family photos.

Photos of church groups and activities: *We can start taking digital pictures of church activities for the upcoming directory.* If you have such photos to share, please email them to our congregational president, Brianna Camps, at brianna.camps@outlook.com

The Super-Secret Summer Beginner's Bible Study for Adults



Are you shy about admitting that you don't know much about the Bible "even at your age"?

Are you afraid to join a Bible Study because you may appear ignorant?

Do you want to read God's Word to find its richness for your life, but you don't know where to start?

This class is for you!

For 3 Monday evenings this summer, Pastor Christine will lead a study to help adults get a handle on how to read the Bible.

Mondays: June 23, 30, + July 7, 5:30—7 pm

There will be no public sign-up sheet.

**You must sign-up covertly by contacting Pastor Christine by:
calling the church office (906-863-3431),
texting or calling her cell (304-995-1491),
or sending her an email (pastor2901@e-mmanuel.com).**

There is no cost for this class.

Adults are welcome to (secretly) sign up to learn the basics and reap the benefits of reading the Bible for your life. Join with others "just like you" to learn to read the Word of God.

All Bible Beginners, ages 21—101, are welcome!

FROM THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM:

Trivia Night at Spirit House

Thursday, May 1 at 5:30 PM



Do you like Jeopardy? Do you know fun facts? The Fellowship team is coordinating a sign up for **Trivia Night at the Spirit House in Menominee on Thursday May 1st**. Teams can consist of up to 6 players each—let's get a few teams! *It runs from 5:30 (registration), play starts at 6:00, and after a mid-game break, it is over at 8pm.* They have alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, and promises to be a fun evening!

So who's in? There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex!



Blooming Bunco

Thursday, May 29, 6:00-8 PM

In celebration of the spring we are hosting *Blooming Bunco* in the Fellowship Hall. **Bring a flower and help us create a bouquet that we'll share with the congregation the following Sunday.** Come also for some fun and laughs! **You may bring \$3**, if you wish, to help provide the prizes, and there will be snacks and wine offered. If you would like to bring another beverage to share, you are welcome to do so. **Bring a friend!** Men and women are both invited and encouraged to come.

Hope to see you there!



Northern Great Lakes Synod News

To find out what is happening around our Synod,
check out the Northern Great Lakes Website at
www.nglsynod.org

Save the Date!
Multi-Synodical Youth Gathering this Summer!



Save the Date!!
ENTANGLED
Multi-Synod High School Youth Gathering
JULY 8-11, 2025
UW River Falls

The NGLS is once again partnering with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to offer a Multi-Synodical Youth Conference for high schoolers (students who have completed 8th-12th grades are eligible to register).

The event will take place **July 8-11, 2025** at UW River Falls.

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*This messenger is given in thanks
to God by Jeff & Karen Hines*