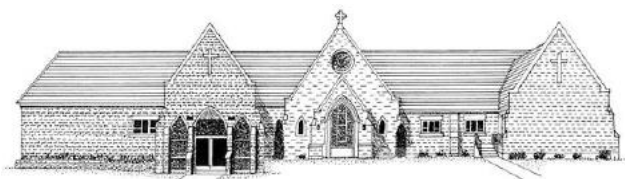


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan

A congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the ELCA

January

2026

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 25

At ~10:00AM, following **9:00AM** worship

There will be ONE worship service on the 25th, at 9:00am. The meeting will follow that service. Please plan to stay to discuss and vote on important congregational items for 2026. *Thank you.*

Committee Heads and Council Officers are asked to submit their reports to the church office by Monday, January 12th.

If you'd like to see last year's report, for reference, please contact Judy at the office.

Copies of the 2025 Annual Report will be available at church on Sunday, January 18, 2026.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I asked of the Lord;
this I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

—Psalm 27:1, 4-6, 14 NRSVUE

It's January and IT'S DARK. Also *COLD*. (Imagine those letters are ~shivering~!) Yet, it is in this month that we enter into the liturgical season of light—Epiphany.

Epiphany is the season of **REVEALING**—God showing us who God is and how God continues to guide us. See how Psalm 27 opens with confidence: “*The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?*” These words don’t deny that life can feel uncertain. They simply remind us that God’s presence brings orientation, clarity, and hope.

Darkness in Scripture isn’t always negative; sometimes it’s the place where God does quiet work—creation itself begins there.

Yet, sometimes in the darkness we can feel confused, uncertain, or even afraid. Many of us know what it's like to move through seasons that feel dim or unsettled. In those seasons, we often find that God's light doesn't overwhelm or erase the darkness; it accompanies us, giving just enough illumination for the next step.

The psalmist's longing—*"One thing I asked of the Lord... to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple."*—is not about escaping life's complexity. It's about trusting that God's presence is steady and roomy enough to hold every part of our experience. Christ, whose light we celebrate in Epiphany, meets us both in brightness and in shadow, guiding us, shaping us, and calling us forward. We can see its beauty—in the light, certainly, but also in the darkness when we look closely. God's presence holds us no matter what! Whatever our circumstances, whatever our pains, whatever our struggles, whatever our joys, whatever our delights: God's presence holds us! Sometimes it's hard to remember that truth when we face life's uncertainty, but still God's presence never wavers. That presence is beautiful and we are blessed to behold it.

As we walk through this season, remember: the same God who guided the magi by a star also guides you—not with a blinding spotlight, but with a faithful, gentle light that helps you notice where God is already at work. So, whatever you are going through, continue to have hope and *"wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"*

Blessings to you always in the name of the One who continually shines a light in the darkness, calling us into his presence.

If you are reading this right now, please contact me and let me know so by email or texting. We are trying to see how many people truly enjoy reading the Messenger to determine its value and whether to continue providing it in its current format. *By contacting me, you will let me know that you read it!* I am also open to suggestions on how to make it more helpful. Thank you.

As usual, I invite you to read the entirety of Psalm 27 and find its blessings within. ☺+

—Pastor Christine

Youth Ministries

**Sunday School
Classes resume January 4th**



**January 25th
9:00 – 11:00 AM**

Because of the Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday school and worship is being moved to 9:00 a.m. with the annual meeting to

immediately follow. During this time, our Little Lutherans Youth Committee will be hosting a pajama party in the Fellowship Hall for all of our Sunday school children. Wear your favorite pj's and bring a blanket and a pillow. We will enjoy a light breakfast, games, crafts and a movie!



Upcoming Class

January 11th
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Thank you, children, parents, teachers and youth.
What a joyful Christmas message!






***Creative Faith
Afterschool Program***

Pre-Kindergarten through 6th grade
Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Join us every Wednesday in the fellowship hall for amazing faith stories and songs, a light snack and fun crafts!



GLOW Youth Group

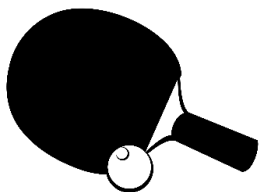
7th-12th grade

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Join us at church for Bible devos, group discussions, food, games, and fun.

Bring a friend!

Northern Great Lakes Synod Youth Event:



Synod Youth Group Gathering

On Sunday, January 11, youth between 6th-12th grade are invited to First Presbyterian Church (923 5th Street in Menominee) from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. for an afternoon of games

and fellowship. The event will include a devotion, pizza and soda, a dedication to the church's new Youth Game Room, and plenty of time to play games. Bring your favorite board game or try your hand at ping pong, darts, foosball, and more! Friends are welcome! Please RSVP to Stefanie Ehle at youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org.

Adult Ministries

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!** If you're reading this, please go to the second-to-last paragraph of Pastor's devotion at the beginning of the newsletter and follow the instructions. Thanks.

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, January 8 at 1:00 PM

Join us in the Friendship room for Bible study and fellowship.
All women are welcome!

Congregational Financial Update

(through November 30, 2025)

Approved 2025 budgeted offerings received: \$203,919.00

Amount behind approved budget: \$5,947.00

Total offerings and income received: \$218,159.00

Total expenses: \$224,950.00

Expenses greater than income by \$6,791.00

Prayerful Hearts and Healing

2nd Tuesday of each Month

5:00pm



In the “Chapel” (music room)

Starting Tuesday, January 13, 2026

This world can be a stressful place. It seems particularly tense right now, doesn't it? There seems to be so much division, so much fear, so much busyness, so much pressure to “keep up with the Joneses”.

We need a place to rest, to relax, to let go of our stress and allow God room to enter in the process. We need a place to find room to breathe and space to heal.

Come for a calming, short (30-minute) service of prayer, healing, and reflection on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning in January of 2026.

Together we will explore healing in God's light and love.

The pastor will provide a simple service, but it will be open to changing depending on where the Spirit leads us. There will be no preaching and no offering collected. We will sit with questions and open ourselves to God's voice. We may explore a bit of the mystical together. We will look at healing in the light of Christ, through prayer, trust, and peace.

There will be no pressure for anyone to pray out loud or “perform” in any way. All people ages 15+, all personality types (*outgoing and shy, certain and uncertain, members and strangers*) are welcome!

GIVING MADE EASY

Donate to our Church with your phone!

Support ministries anytime and anywhere from the palm of your hand. Here are the simple steps to begin giving:

- Download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app from the App Store or Google Play
- Search for our Church
- Create an account to sign up
- Select your fund and amount
- Enter payment method, can either be a bank checking/savings account or a debit/credit card

If you choose to use a debit/credit card, the processing fee will be deducted from your donation.

If you use your checking/saving account, your entire donation goes to the Church.

- You can choose to cover your processing fees
- Complete your donation

The accounts we have for giving on the mobile app include:

General Operating Fund *(Regular Offerings)*

First Envelope *(Additional first offering of the new year, usually \$5.00)*

Thanksgiving Maintenance Fund

Christmas Youth Activity Fund

Lent and Easter Other

We can add more accounts to donate to if the need arises. It's that easy! We encourage you to set up an account and give it a try!

The Vanco church payment app prioritizes security with a range of measures designed to protect users' data and transactions. The app complies with PCI DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard) Level 1, the highest level of certification for payment processors. This ensures that all payment information is encrypted and securely transmitted. Additionally, the app uses SSL (Secure Socket Layer) technology to protect data during transmission and multi-factor authentication to safeguard access to sensitive information.



Building Maintenance Project

Our church building needs some work. We need to take the failing chimney down. It's in danger of falling and taking the side of our building with it. With that, we will be getting a new furnace in the spring: one that is more efficient and doesn't need such a chimney. We are also getting some brickwork done that has been crumbling and is in danger of falling.

**With everything needed,
we expect the total cost to be around
\$30,000.**

Please keep this project in your prayers.

We give thanks for all Christmas Memorials and other offerings given towards maintaining our building so that we will continue to have a place to gather, worship, learn, be in fellowship, guide our children, share, and grow.



Emmanuel's Outreach Projects

Christmas Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated food and goods and purchased gifts for the Angel Tree. Thank you to those who delivered everything to where it needed to be! Several food boxes went to individuals and the remaining food and goods went to fill the Salvation Army's pantry. You have made a wonderful difference for many families and individuals in need in our community. You are a blessing! Here are a few photos of our outreach activities and the wonderful gifts you gave.



Christmas Bake Sale



Bell Ringing for Salvation Army



Fruit Baskets for our shut-ins



*I would like to thank the eighteen Emmanuel members who volunteered to sing in the **Christmas Eve choir** and thank you also for the gift certificates I received for offering my services as director. It is much appreciated. Marilyn Schoen*

Wishing
★ *YOU A* ★
Blessed
★ **NEW YEAR** ★



Isabel Haulotte passed away on December 17. A service was held at Cadieu Funeral Home on December 23. Our sympathy to her friends and family.

Eternal rest grant her, O God, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

Northland Lutheran Retirement Community
Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 15 at 12:30 PM

In the Village Activity Center (1025 Pine Beach Rd, Marinette)

Each Congregation can be represented at the meeting by 2 delegates. *If you are interested in representing Emmanuel at the meeting, please contact Judy at the church office.*



Thank you!



Thank you so much for the Christmas Bonus gift from the congregation and for the lovely individual gifts received from members. I am grateful that you think of me. You are a blessing, making my Christmas bright!

—Pastor Christine

Trivia Night at Spirit House

533 10th Ave, Menominee — 6 to 8pm

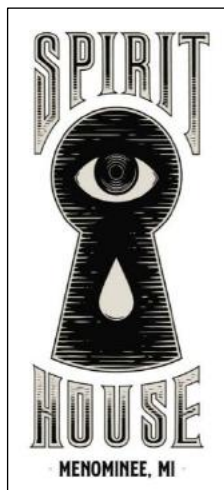
Either Wednesday, January 7th

or

Thursday, January 8th

... depending on when the Spirit House decides
to hold trivia in 2026.

We had so much fun at the last Trivia Night; we are bringing another group of Emmanuel players! A sign-up sheet will be posted. You can sign up as a team—or just sign up to be on a team. **We will meet at Spirit House at 5:30.** Bring snacks to share, if you like. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks can be purchased at the event. Everybody knows some trivia—come and play!



Bunco in Flannel!

Wednesday,
January 21 at 6:00 PM

The Fellowship Team will
host another game of Bunco!
Come in your flannel, and
enjoy rolling the dice, snacks,
and some wine—all for a good time!

Bunco is a fun, easy to play, dice rolling game. Invite a friend and come for some fun! You're invited to bring \$3, if you choose, to help provide the prize.

Hope to see you there!

REPORT: Your Endowment Fund

Did you know that Emmanuel has an Endowment Fund that allows us to share God's blessings with other ministries?

The fund stipulates that 20% of the yearly available amount goes to an international charity, 20% to a national charity, and 20% to a local charity. The remaining 40% is given out each year to the first three causes or to entirely other causes, as the Endowment Committee chooses. This year, the committee decided to give 25% each to four causes: two local, one national, and one international. **You may be pleased to know that the following gifts were given this year on your behalf, as a member of Emmanuel.**

\$1,649.25 to Haven of Hope, *a local ministry*

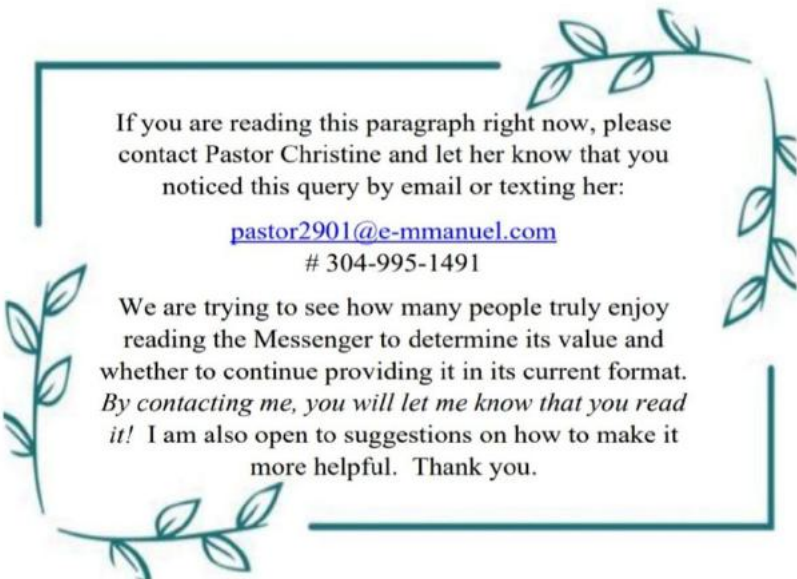
\$1,649.25 to Synod Seminary Debt Relief, *a local cause to help new pastors in our Synod*

\$1,649.25 to help those affected by disasters through ELCA Domestic Disaster Relief, *a national cause*

\$1,649.25 to help with crises in the world through Samaritan's Purse, *an international cause*

Thanks be to God for our ability to help others in this way!

And, thanks to those serving on the Endowment Committee for taking up this charge on our behalf.



If you are reading this paragraph right now, please contact Pastor Christine and let her know that you noticed this query by email or texting her:

pastor2901@e-mmanuel.com

304-995-1491

We are trying to see how many people truly enjoy reading the Messenger to determine its value and whether to continue providing it in its current format. *By contacting me, you will let me know that you read it!* I am also open to suggestions on how to make it more helpful. Thank you.

Can You Help with our worship space?

On Sunday, January 4, after the 10:00 service, we are taking down the Christmas decorations to recreate our worship space for the new church season. **We need your help.** *“Many hands make light work.”* Please mark your calendar and come to help. Thanks!

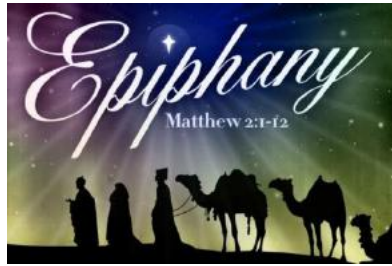
Thank You to those who helped decorate our space for the Christmas season!



We appreciate you for using your time and strength to adorn our space with seasonal beauty.

Thank you for being a servant!





Epiphany, (from the Greek word, *epiphaneia*, meaning “manifestation”), is a Christian holiday commemorating the first manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi, and the manifestation of his divinity, as it occurred at his baptism in the Jordan River and at his first miracle at the wedding in Cana in Galilee. Epiphany is one of the three principal and oldest festival days of the Christian church (the other two are Easter and Christmas). Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Anglicans, and other Western churches observe the feast as well as Eastern Orthodox churches.

The festival originated in the Eastern church, where it at first included a commemoration of Christ’s birth. In Rome, by 354 Christ’s birth was being celebrated on December 25 and later in the 4th century the church in Rome began celebrating Epiphany on January 6. In the Western church the festival primarily commemorates the visit by the Magi to the infant Jesus, which is seen as evidence that Christ, the Jewish Messiah, came also for the salvation of Gentiles. In the East it primarily commemorates the baptism of Jesus and celebrates the revelation that the incarnate Christ was both fully God and fully human.

In the West the evening preceding Epiphany is called Twelfth Night. The time between December 25 and January 6 is known as the Twelve Days of Christmas. Epiphany is celebrated with special pastries in many countries, and children often receive small gifts in their shoes in honor of the Magi’s gifts to the infant Jesus. The holiday also has a number of traditions involving water as a reflection of Jesus’ baptism, including the blessing of houses with holy water.

If you’re reading this, please go to the second-to-last paragraph of Pastor’s devotion at the beginning of the newsletter and follow the instructions. Thanks.

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EMMANUEL

Worship: 8 & 10 AM in person

Online Worship 8:00 AM

Livestreamed on our Facebook page

CONTACT US:

Phone: (906) 863-3431

Email: mail@e-mmanuel.com

or

Visit us on the Web at www.e-mmanuel.com



Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at
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Mrs. Patti Treptow

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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 of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

