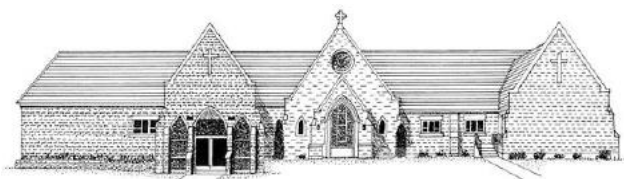


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan

A congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the ELCA

February

2026

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday,

February 18, with services of

Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

at Emmanuel

11:00 AM and 6:00 PM



NEW!! — **Evening Midweek Lenten Activities**
will be held at different Menominee/Marinette churches
each week — ***see inside this Messenger for details***

Services will take place on
Wednesdays at 6:00 PM, *beginning on Feb 25*

A soup supper will be served beginning **at 5:15 PM** each
week at each individual location.

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness;
answer me in your righteousness.
Do not enter into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.
For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my life to the ground,
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.
Therefore my spirit faints within me;
my heart within me is appalled.
I remember the days of old;
I think about all your deeds;
I meditate on the works of your hands.
I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. *Selah*
Answer me quickly, O Lord;
my spirit fails.
Do not hide your face from me,
or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.
Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning,
for in you I put my trust.
Teach me the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.
Save me, O Lord, from my enemies;
I have fled to you for refuge.
Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God.
Let your good spirit lead me
on a level path.
For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life.
In your righteousness bring me out of trouble.
In your steadfast love cut off my enemies,
and destroy all my adversaries,
for I am your servant.

—*Psalms 143 NRSVUE*

This month, we enter again into Lent—the season of turning. We are invited again to repent: to “turn around and go back to God”, to return to God, to set our path again on God’s way. Therefore, Lent

gives us permission to pray honestly. Not politely. Not triumphantly. *Honestly.*

Psalm 143 is one of Scripture's penitential psalms, and it sounds like a voice worn down by life, faith stretched thin, hope flickering but not gone. *"My spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled."* This is not a prayer prayed from a mountaintop. It rises from the ground.

The psalmist does not begin by listing achievements or promises to do better. Instead, the prayer opens with a plea: *"Hear my prayer, O LORD... in your faithfulness answer me."* The psalmist knows what Lent teaches us again and again—before God, none of us can claim righteousness. *"Do not enter into judgment with your servant,"* the psalm says, *"for no one living is righteous before you."* Lent strips away our illusions of self-sufficiency and returns us to grace.

And yet, this psalm is not despairing. Even in exhaustion, the psalmist remembers. *"I remember the days of old, I think about all your deeds."* Memory becomes an act of faith. When the present feels overwhelming, the psalmist reaches backward—toward stories of deliverance, toward a God who has acted before and can act again.

At the center of this prayer is a longing not just for relief, but for guidance. *"Teach me to do your will... Let your good spirit lead me on a level path."* Lent is not only about repentance; it is about reorientation. We ask God to realign our lives, to guide us away from paths that harm and toward paths that heal—paths marked by justice, mercy, and humility.

Perhaps the most tender line comes near the middle: *"Let the morning bring me word of your steadfast love."* This is a prayer for daily grace. Not a lifetime guarantee, not an instant solution—just enough light for today. Enough mercy to rise again. Enough love to keep going.

As we move through Lent, Psalm 143 invites us to bring our whole selves before God: our weariness, our regrets, our unanswered questions, and our quiet hope. We trust that God meets us not with condemnation, but with steadfast love—new every morning, faithful even when we are faint.

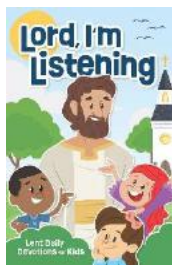
May this season teach us to pray with honesty, to wait with hope, and to listen for God's gentle word that still comes at dawn. Blessings to you always in the name of the One who always accepts our honest prayers.

—Pastor Christine

Youth Ministries

Sunday School 10:00am each Sunday!

Classes for Prek-5th grade immediately follow the children's sermon that is held during the 10:00 am worship service.



Our children will be receiving a Lenten devotional book called "Lord, I'm Listening". One book for each family will be distributed in Sunday school on March 2nd. Parents and family members are encouraged to read together the devotion each day starting with Ash Wednesday, March 18th. Blessings to you and your family this Lenten season.

6th Grade Pre-Confirmation Prep!

Mark your calendars for our next class: **Sunday, March 15th, 11:00-12:00 in the Friendship Room. We ask that a parent join each youth in the class, as possible.** Don't forget to pick up a worship sheet on the table near the sanctuary doors each Sunday. After completing during worship, please place them in the box on the table.



Upcoming Class

February 8th
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Bowling Event!

Sunday School Kiddos and their Family



Hosted by
Emmanuel
Little
Lutherans
Committee

Sunday, February 22nd

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Dome Lanes in Marinette

Cost: \$5.00 per person / \$15.00 per family

Must sign up by February 8th

**Money will be collected at the door
on the day of the event.**

**Please sign up in the narthex by Sunday,
February 8th or contact Patti Treptow, so we
know how many lanes to reserve.**



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!***



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,
a light snack and fun crafts!



Parents of 5th graders:
First Communion
classes will start March
8th and run for four
weeks.

All 5th graders and any 6th grader who has not yet taken Holy Communion instruction is welcomed to join us. The classes will be held during the same time as Sunday school classes in the conference room located at the end of the office hallway. Students are to go directly to class (not to worship) at 10:00 a.m. Letters with registration will go out to parents mid-February.



Carl & Marion Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Emmanuel's 2026 graduating high school seniors who are attending a university or vocational/technical college are invited to apply for this scholarship. Applications for scholarship will be mailed to our graduating seniors early February.

Deadline for the application is
Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

Presentation of scholarship(s) will be on Graduate Sunday, June 7th during the 9:00am worship service.

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!

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, February 5th at 1:00 PM

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

Gentle Yoga! Starts up on Tuesday, February 10th

held each Tuesday 5:30-6pm

All abilities are welcome!

Congregational Financial Update

(through December 31, 2025)

Approved 2025 budgeted offerings received: \$223,388.00

Amount behind approved budget: \$4,712.00

Total offerings and income received: \$247,628.00

Total expenses: \$251,360.00

Expenses greater than income by \$3,732.00

Please contact Judy at the church office if you would like a copy of your 2025 financial statement.



Emmanuel's Outreach Projects



Once again Emmanuel's Outreach Committee is sponsoring the "Souper Bowl of Caring" to help

tackle hunger.

Our congregation will be collecting cans of soup on **Sunday, February 1st and 8th.**

You may drop off your cans of soup in the narthex on those days.

Super Bowl Sunday, February 8th will be the last day for collecting. Soup will be given to Abundant Life Shelter and St. Vincent DePaul food pantry.

Please join in and help make a difference by tackling hunger in our community!



If you know of an individual or family that would benefit from some soup, please give the person's name and contact information to Judy in the church office.



2026 Church Council

Holly Bayerl	<i>President</i>
Brianna Camps	<i>Vice President</i>
Allyson Bickel	<i>Secretary</i>
Deb Villas	<i>Treasurer</i>

Eileen Beyer	Jim Briar	Janet Conklin
James Porras	Gail Sieglaff	Cindy Smith

New Council Members:

Rob Jamo	Gary Miller
Matthew Nowack	Travis Rod—<i>Youth Member</i>

The 2025 Annual Report was presented to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026 after the 9:00 a.m. worship service. **We had a quorum of 56 active voting members**, which exceeds the necessary quorum of 52. The meeting began at 10:11 AM. The 2026 Budget was approved, reports were reviewed, and three new council members were elected to serve on the council, plus one youth representative. *We welcome the new representatives to the council! Thank you for your dedication, commitment and faithfulness to Emmanuel.* The congregational meeting ended at 11:03 AM with the Lord's Prayer.

Prayerful Hearts and Healing

2nd Tuesday of each Month

5:00pm

In the “Chapel” (*music room*)



This month on *February 10th*

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

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

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!

See the January newsletter or talk with Pastor Christine for more info.

Take 2!

Once Again, we're asking those reading this now to contact Pastor Christine and let her know. *Even if you did so last month, PLEASE do so again.*

Pastor2901@e-mmanuel.com

304-995-1491

We are trying to get an accurate count of people who read the Messenger each month and how useful is this publication.

When you contact Pastor Christine, let her know if you're willing to receive it by email or need a printed copy.

Thanks much!

Lent Study: “He Chose the Nails”

by Max Lucado

Offered on:

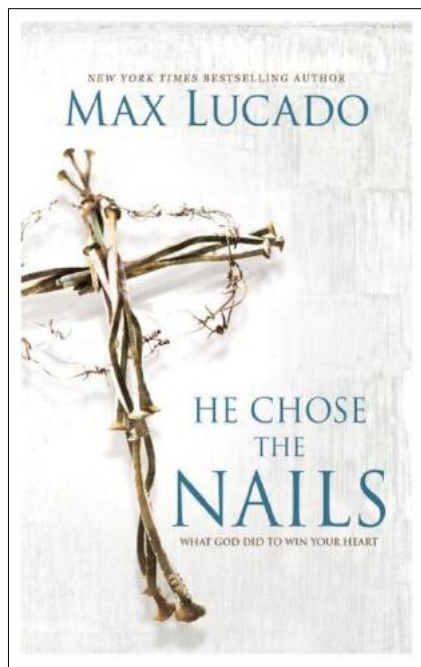
MONDAYS

at 1:00 PM OR 5:30 PM

starting on February 23

*Is your heart unsettled by the chaos of the world?
Are you heavy-laden with bad moments, mad moments, or
anxious moments?*

**Today, rest in God’s self-giving love and leave all your
troubles at the foot of the cross.**



In *He Chose the Nails*, Max Lucado observes that the last moments leading up to Jesus’ death were not left up to chance. God chose the path; he selected the nails. Our Lord planted the trio of crosses and painted the sign. God was never more sovereign than in the details of the death of his Son. And in those details are gifts Christ provided for us...the cross. The thorns. The nails. His seamless robe. The empty tomb.

God didn’t have to give us all these things, you know. The only required act for our salvation was the shedding of blood, yet he did much more. So much more.

In this Lenten study, Max will help you:

- **Experience Lent** as a time not to just give up something, but to prepare to receive good gifts from God.

- **Take comfort** that Jesus understands everything you face in this life.
- **Receive the grace** of Christ's work *for* us, and **cooperate** with God's work *in* us to make us more like him.
- **Stand firm** in the promise that you are forgiven, and you are welcome in God's presence, no matter what you've done.

Search the scene of the cross and listen for God's gentle whisper, "I did it just for you."

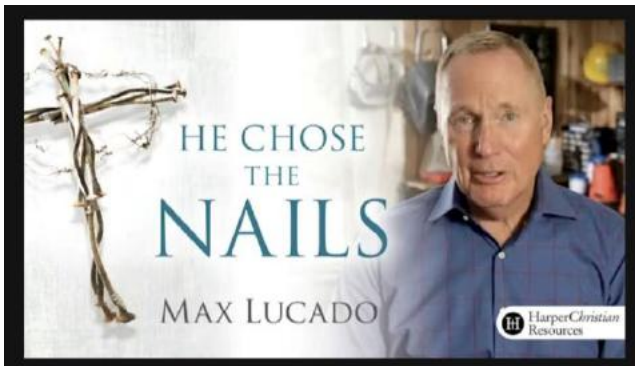
Sessions include:

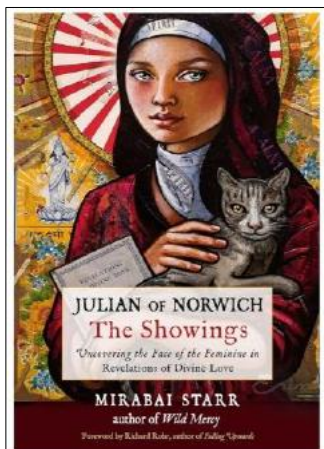
1. He Chose to Be One of Us — *February 23*
2. He Chose to Forgive Us — *March 2*
3. He Chose to Invite Us into His Presence — *March 9*
4. He Chose to Love Us Forever — *March 16*
5. He Chose to Give Us Victory — *March 23*
6. He Chose to Give Us Confidence — *March 30*

Cost: \$10

Participation is precious! We do not want cost to prohibit anyone from participating. Contact the pastor privately if you would like to join the study for free. Assistance will be kept confidential.

**Sign up in the narthex or call the office
by Wednesday, February 11th**





Leaning into Lent

with Julian of Norwich

Tuesdays at 10:30 AM
at Perkins Restaurant

Feb 17 + 24; March 3, 10, 17, + 24

Join Pastor Christine at Perkins in the back room on Tuesday mornings during Lent for a cup of coffee, brunch, or early lunch

and a conversation of Julian of Norwich's sacred book.

Participation requires an open mind + heart, purchase of the book (\$12), and reading about 46 pages each week.

This contemporary translation brings the message and spirituality of this 14th-century mystic to 21st-century readers. Julian of Norwich, a contemporary of Geoffrey Chaucer, was an English anchoress in East Anglia. At the age of 30, suffering from a severe illness and believing she was on her deathbed, Julian had a series of intense visions of Jesus, which she recorded and then expanded on later in her life. In her visions, God was not angry and wrathful. Instead, the three properties of God were presented as life, love, and light, and all of His creation was good, including his servant, humanity. In Julian's version, sin is something that we must experience and overcome in our spiritual journey with God.

Julian's message for today's readers is simply this:

- All our failings are an opportunity to learn and grow; they should be honored, but not dwelled upon.
- God's love has nothing to do with love-and-retribution and everything to do with love-and-compassion.
- In spite of all appearances, all is well.

This book contains some of the most profound spiritual writing ever written and remains a perennial favorite among Christians.

Sign up in the narthex or call the office by February 11.



On Facebook Live on Emmanuel's page

Mondays at 8:00 PM

During Lent — *Feb 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30*

Compline is a **Night Prayer Service** that is performed at the end of the day. It is a time for quiet reflection and preparation for sleep. The term "compline" comes from the Latin word "completorium", which means "completion". It signifies the completion of the day and leads into a deep and restorative sleep.

The best way to participate in online Compline is to download the outline of the service that the pastor will provide and follow along, participating in the comfort of your own home. Or, you can simply close your eyes and listen. **The service lasts about 20 to 30 minutes and moves at a reflective pace.** After the service, people often feel ready to drift off to sleep.

Join in online on Mondays this Lent in Nighttime Prayer.

Ash Wednesday

February 18

Worship at 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM



The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday. On this special day of reflection, we wear a marking of the cross in ash on our foreheads. The ashes symbolize our mortality – “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” **This reminder may seem despondent, but it is meant to help us live**

more vibrantly and fully. In recognizing death, we are encouraged to truly live each moment. We also remember how much we rely on God’s grace for our life both in this world and in the world to come. **Come to worship either in the morning (11am) or evening (6pm) to begin your Lenten journey by receiving ashes and Communion.**

Lenten MORNING Mid-week Worship

Wednesdays at 11:00 AM

February 25 — March 25 at Emmanuel

We are offering a morning service option for Lenten Wednesday worship. Come and join us **at Emmanuel at 11am** if you can’t make it to the evening services. *These services will be led by Pastors Christine Olson and Scott Ehle, from Bethel.*

NEW!!—Lenten EVENING Mid-week

Wednesdays from Feb 25 — March 25

This year we are doing something new! We will be working with MANY churches in Menominee and Marinette and traveling to a different church each week. (See the schedule below.)

Soup Suppers begin at 5:15 PM at each location

Worship at 6:00 PM at each location

Our evening mid-week theme this year:

“A Way Home”

We will have a half-hour worship service each week to help us pause and reflect. We are blessed this year to have many sister churches with whom to join together in worship!

February 25:

Zion Lutheran —2714 James St, Marinette

March 4:

At Emmanuel, with participation from Bethel

March 11:

Our Savior’s Lutheran —1600 University Dr, Marinette

March 18:

*Hosted by Community Covenant & First United
Methodist —Site to be determined*

March 25:

Pioneer Presbyterian —1947 Riverside Ave, Marinette



Trivia at the Spirit House

The Fellowship Team is organizing another Trivia night at the Spirit House on

Thursday February 12th!

Meet there at 5:30pm.

The game goes from 6-8.

It's only 2 days before Valentine's Day ... so expect some "lovely" questions! Watch for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex!

Lucky Bunco 🍀 will be back in March!

Sponsorship of the Messenger and weekly Bulletin

If you would like to sponsor a 2026 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.



*We give a heartfelt thank you to **Eileen Beyer** who provided the lovely Christmas wreaths at the front and back doors of our church for the holiday season.*

Northern Great Lakes Synod

Youth Event:



Youth between 6th-12th grade are invited to Share the Love on Sunday, February 15 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church (923 5th Street in Menominee). We will make homemade dog treats and dog toys to donate to the Menominee Area Animal Shelter. There will also be snacks, games, and a devotion. Friends are welcome! Please RSVP to Stefanie Ehle at youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

This month's Messenger is given for Pastor Christine, Patti Treptow, Judy Raygo, and Lee + Carol Parrish, in thanks for their dedication and devotion to Emmanuel by Marilyn Mouritsen.

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
Emmanuel Lutheran Church Menominee Michigan ELCA

STAFF:

Pastor

The Rev. Christine Olson

Email: pastor2901@e-mmanuel.com

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Mrs. Patti Treptow

Email: ptreptow@e-mmanuel.com

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.**

