

THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan

A congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the ELCA

May

2026

Pentecost Day: Sunday, May 24th

Worship at 9:00AM — summer worship begins!

(Find more details about summer worship inside this newsletter.)



Attention!

!! - See inside this edition for an important letter from our bishop to Emmanuel about our pastoral call process.

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.
God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.

— *Psalm 47:1-2, 5-7 NRSVUE*

Clap your hands. Shout. Blow the trumpet. Psalm 47 erupts with celebration: God reigns, God has gone up with a shout, and all the peoples are invited to join the praise. In the post-Easter season we live between an empty tomb and the promise of God's abiding presence poured out in the Spirit. The Ascension and Pentecost frame this in time: Jesus is exalted, and the Spirit gathers and sends the church to proclaim that reign.

The season after Easter is filled with movement. The stone is rolled away, Christ is risen, and the church does not remain still. We move from the astonishment of Easter morning to the wonder of Ascension, where Christ is lifted up in glory, and onward to Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit rushes in like wind and fire. Psalm 47 fits this season beautifully because it is a song of joy, praise, and holy celebration.

The psalm proclaims, "God has gone up with a shout." For Christians, these words echo the mystery of Ascension: the risen Christ returning to the Father, not to leave us behind, but to reign over all creation with mercy and peace. Christ's ascension reminds us that the One who suffered on the cross now holds all things in love.

Yet this joy does not end with Christ going up. It spills outward into Pentecost, where the Spirit comes down. The risen and ascended Christ continues to be present with us through the

Holy Spirit—gathering the church, breathing courage into fearful hearts, and sending us out in love for the sake of the world.

So in this bright season of Eastertide, Psalm 47 invites us into holy celebration. Our praise is not shallow happiness, but resurrection confidence. We sing because death does not have the last word. We clap because Christ reigns. We lift our voices because the Spirit is still moving among us. As we approach Pentecost, listen for the Spirit in the noise—wind, song, proclamation—and remember that the same Spirit who lifted Jesus in triumph now dwells in us, empowering our witness. Let your praise be both joyful celebration and faithful action in service to God's reign.

May our lives become songs of praise in this season—joyful, hopeful, and alive with the good news that the risen Christ is Lord of all. Blessings to you always in the name of the One whom we continue to celebrate with hope and joy!

—*Pastor Christine*

* * *

Prayerful Hearts and Healing

MOVING to the 3rd Monday of each Month

5:00pm

In the "Chapel" (*music room*)



This month on Monday, May 18th

Come each month for a calming service of prayer, healing, and reflection on the third Monday of each month.

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

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

Youth Ministries



Sunday School

Sunday school classes are quickly coming to an end for the year. The last day is **Sunday, May 17th** 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 on the next page.*

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

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

2nd/3rd/4th Grade: Ava Slawinski, Emma Stewart

5th Grade: Patti Treptow

6th Grade: Pastor Christine and Patti Treptow

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



FUN DAY!



Sunday, May 3rd - 11:15am to 5:00pm

Our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders will celebrate their year of learning by enjoying the afternoon having lunch together and then heading to the GetAir Trampoline Park in Green Bay. Parents, let Patti know your child's plans on attending.



Sunday School End of the Year Picnic

Sunday, May 17th, 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, fruit, hot cocoa, and juice 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.

**Little Lutherans
Committee**



Thank you, Little Lutherans Committee, for all the fun events that took place this year. Committee members are Holly Bayerl, Natasha Fox, Ashley Karkkainen, Kim Schroeder, Molly Starzynski, and Patti Treptow.



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!

**Mark your calendar - Sunday, May 17th –
Glow Group will be bowling at the Dome Lanes
1:00-3:00 pm.**



Glow youth celebrated Earth Day by cleaning trash from around the church grounds.



Youth
Lock-in;
friendships
made and
faith
deepened!





Our last day for this program year is May 13th.



Our Creative Faith kiddos celebrated Earth Day by learning how to be good stewards of God's beautiful earth, decorating plant pots and planting sunflower seeds!





Mark Your Calendars!

Vacation Bible School

Tuesday—Thursday

August 11, 12, 13

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Watch for more information on summer's favorite event!



Graduate Recognition

Sunday, June 7th, 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 7th. 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.



FORTUNE LAKE

A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

**Summer
Camp 2026**

Spots for Fortune Lake summer camp are filling 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. Registration for Fortune Lake summer camp is open. Register online at FortuneLake.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!

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 7 at 1:00 PM

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

Gentle Yoga

Tuesday 5:30-6pm \$8.00/person

Join us for this relaxing, stretching exercise. Led by Sally VanEyck.

Congregational Financial Update

(through March 31, 2026)

Approved 2026 budgeted offerings received: \$67,194.00

Amount ahead approved budget: \$3,646.00

Total offerings and income received: \$71,709.00

Total expenses: \$66,939.00

Income greater than expenses by \$4,770.00

First Communion Reflections

During Lent, seven of our youth here at Emmanuel learned about the sacrament of Holy Communion. They received their First Communion during Holy Week or Easter.

They are:

Benton Behrens

Cole Brezsko

Colt Christiansen

Dean Gerondale

Calvin Jones

Henry Karkkainen

Peri Perket



During their learning, they wrote about why Communion is important and why they desire to participate. We share those reflections with you, here.

Benton:

The Lord's Supper is important because God forgives our sins. I want to take Holy Communion because it will help me remember God.

Cole:

The Lord's Supper helps us remember God's grace and keep our faith. I want to take Holy Communion to keep my faith and remember what Jesus did for us.

Colt:

The Lord's Supper is important because it communes us and helps us remember God. I want to take Holy Communion so I can get closer to God.

Dean:

The Lord's Supper is important because "the bread is my body and the wine is my blood". I want to take Holy Communion because He will forgive me about my sins.

Calvin:

The Lord's Supper is important because it reminds us of God's and Jesus' love. I want to take Holy Communion because it will remind me of Jesus' sacrifice and love.

Henry:

The Lord's Supper is important because through it and God's grace you have been saved. I want to take Holy Communion because it's the next step in learning more about Jesus.

Peri:

The Lord's Supper is important because it tells you that God has forgiven your sins and that Jesus loves you. I want to take Holy Communion because it reminds me that God and Jesus have both forgiven me from my sins and they will forever love me.



Letter from Bishop Finegan to Emmanuel:

Dear People of Emmanuel in
Menominee,

Grace and peace to you in these
days of longer light!



It is an interesting time to be Church. I am sure that the Church of every age has had its own unique challenges, and our time is no exception. We are in the midst of adaptation and opportunity as “the way we have always done it” is simply no longer the way it needs to be done.

I lift up interim ministry. It used to be, and in some cases still is, that an interim pastor could and would never be considered for a call by the congregation in which that interim work was done. However, where before there was a barrier we now have possibility.

After conversation with Pastor Christine and your council, you, the congregation of Emmanuel, is invited to consider calling Pastor Christine to partner with Emmanuel as your duly called pastor.

The steps toward that consideration are as follows:

1. The council will be forming a call committee of six people as per your constitution.
2. Early May, I will meet with the call committee to equip them for their work.

3. After that, the call committee and Pr. Christine will meet for interview/conversation.
4. Sunday May 17, the call committee will facilitate a conversation/meet & greet between the congregation and Pastor Christine to share hopes and dreams for your future partnership. *Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00AM.*
5. Sunday May 31, there will be a congregational meeting for the purpose of a call vote.
6. If the vote is positive, on June 7 Pastor Christine will be installed as your pastor at a congregational worship celebration.
7. In July, a transition team of 6 people will be formed with Pastor Christine. They will lead Emmanuel into intentional discernment of the mission and purpose of your congregation. Through reflection, prayer, and study of your community, the Transition Team will work with the council and Pr. Christine to lead Emmanuel into what God would have you become – focused in mission and purposeful in community engagement, with honed listening skills to God, community, and each other.

I pray God's blessings upon your discernment in the coming weeks.

Peace in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan



Pastor Christine gives thanks to the following members of our congregation who came to share their thoughts on New Testament Bible passages with our confirmation students on April 19th.

Jeff & Holly Bayerl

Jim Briar

Jeremy & Brianna Camps

June Ehlers

Jay & Boni Heckle

Michelle Holdorf

Steve & Sue Larson

Joanna Magrane

Dan Roetzer

Thank you for helping to encourage our youth in their faith. The value of your willingness to share some of your own heart with the youth should not be underestimated. *You are a blessing!*

Fellowship Activities



Bloomin' Bunco

Thursday, May 21 from 6-8:00 PM

Fellowship will be offering some May fun with Bloomin' Bunco on Thursday May 21st at 6pm. We will be rolling the dice and having fun, with some snacks

and wine. Bring a flower for our vases that will be present in the narthex on Sunday May 24th. A donation of \$3 is optional for game prizes! All welcome—come and have some fun!

What is Pickleball?

Fellowship will be offering a session for those curious about all the fuss around Pickleball. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex to find out what day of the week and time of day would be the best time to offer a session. Is it hard? Is it expensive? Is it fun? (Yes!) ***Sign up and find out!***



Listening/Visioning Prayer

Mondays, 1:30—2:15pm
on May 4, 11, 18 and June 1, 8, 15

Wednesdays, 6:45—7:30pm
on May 6, 13, 20 and June 3, 10, 17

*(This session directly follows the “Familiar Stranger” study,
but you can sign up for it whether you’re in the study or not.)*

Sign up to join one of these two classes with Pastor Christine where you can learn to enter into a contemplative state in which it’s easier to connect with God.

The Holy Spirit most often speaks in times of quiet—the still small voice within, the presence within our breath, the “sheer silence” on the mountain. It usually takes stillness to hear God, receive vision, or recognize God’s presence. Yet, this world and our lives are filled with busy-ness and noise.

So, how can a person hear God’s still, small voice today?

This prayer practice gives you a chance to open up to the Spirit and connect with God in new depths. The pastor has been using it for years (*decades, actually*) to be present to God’s Presence. In these sessions, she will teach anyone who wants to learn. **ANYONE can learn this prayer practice with a little patience, intention, and practice.**

You don’t need to settle for “head knowledge” only when it comes to your faith in God. In this class, we learn to engage the heart and soul as well.

EVERYONE is welcome to sign up for these classes, whether you are engaging in the “Familiar Stranger” study or not.

*We will meet in the Chapel (*music room*).*

9:00AM Summer Worship Schedule

begins on

Sunday, May 24

We will move to ONE worship service during the summer, at 9:00AM. **Summer worship time will continue from May 24 (*Memorial Day weekend*) through September 6 (*Labor Day weekend*).**

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



The regular worship schedule will return on September 13th with Rally Day — 8AM in the church building and 10AM at Henes Park.

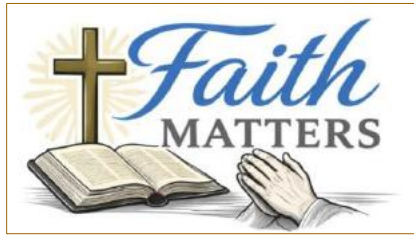
OUTDOOR Worship

June 21

July 19

August 16

Join us outside in the warm summer breeze *on the third 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! If it rains, we will worship inside.*



People in our congregation have been standing up in worship to share some of their faith stories with us. *What an awesome witness!* When someone shares some of their story, it makes us think about our own. Through the sharing, we are also encouraged to look for God at work in our lives. We are blessed to have heard from several who have already shared:

Jim Briar	Holly Bayerl
Jeremy Sallgren	Brianna Camps
Kacy Eland	Matt Vanni
Cookie Kramer	Eileen Beyer

We are continuing these sharings on the 2nd Sunday of each month. This month, we are excited to have

Jeremy Camps on May 10th

to share some of his faith story at both services! I hope you can join us to hear.

Cindy Smith will be sharing on June 14th.



We have (and will get more) copies of the completed Church Directory in the office. **They are \$12 each.** You can also order them directly from the photo studio: *Memories Studios* here in Menominee.

Emmanuel's Brat Fry Fundraisers at Jack's in Menominee

Come out for a couple of hours between 8am and 2pm to help with Emmanuel's fundraiser on:



July 10 & 11

September 18 & 19

October 2 & 3

This is a big fundraiser for our church and it's FUN to do! Jeff & Holly Bayerl lead us in this endeavor with joy and good cheer. Look for sign-up sheets and more information as the dates approach. Thank you for your help!



Building Maintenance Project UPDATE

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.

So far, we have been gifted \$8,202 for this project.

Thank you for your support.

Northern Great Lakes Synod

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



YOUTH EVENT - April Showers Bring May Flowers

Youth between 6th-12th grade are invited to First Presbyterian Church (923 5th Street, Menominee) on **Sunday, May 17 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.** for an afternoon of games, Bible Study, and planting flowers for shut-ins. Friends are welcome! Please RSVP to Stefanie at youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org.

Light the Fire for Fortune Lake

You are invited to Light the Fire for Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp on Sunday, **May 31 at 6:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church (2714 James St., Marinette).** 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.

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*This month's Messenger is given in memory of
Tom Kveton, son of Andy & Mary Kveton.
Tom passed away on May 9, 2006.*

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.**

