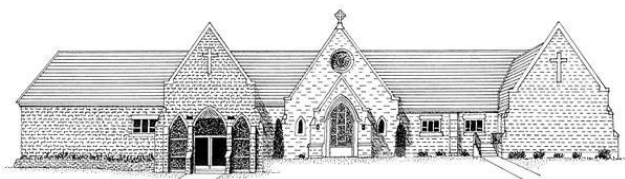


THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan

A congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the ELCA

July

2026



Thank you, y'all!!

I am thankful for all who helped with the Installation Service and the meal on June 7—too many to name. **What a joy to have so many people involved, using their time and talents! I am grateful for all the hard work done on behalf of this important day.** Thank you for the individual cards and gifts! *I am honored that you think of me.* A special thank you to the entire congregation for the stained-glass art (seen above); I LOVE stained glass! *I am delighted by your thoughtfulness.* Thank you for the joyful standing ovation after the installation at the service! *I am humbled by your enthusiasm.* **I am grateful for each of you.**

I look forward to the upcoming days and years of ministry together and the memories we'll make. Blessings to you all! *(See a few pictures inside this Messenger.)*

— Pastor Christine

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints,
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.
Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.

Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
As they go through the valley of Baca,
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.
They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob!

For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
he bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does the Lord withhold
from those who walk uprightly.
O Lord of hosts,
happy is everyone who trusts in you.

— *Psalms 84 NRSVUE*

There is something about summer that awakens the soul a little bit. Perhaps it is the longer days. The smell of campfires. The

sound of children outside long after supper. The return of gardens, fishing poles, bikes, kayaks, road trips, and family cabins. Sitting outside by the Bay, listening to the waves or hearing the breeze rustle through the leaves of the trees. Early sunrises and late sunsets. Summer invites us outdoors again — into creation, into movement, into adventure.

And maybe that is why Psalm 84 feels especially fitting this time of year.

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!” the psalmist begins. But what strikes me is that the psalm quickly becomes less about arriving somewhere... and more about JOURNEYING. *“Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.”* In whose heart are the highways. I love that image.

Faith is not only about sitting still in sacred places.

Sometimes faith happens on the road. Sometimes God meets us while we are moving — while we are exploring, wandering, camping, traveling, resting, visiting grandchildren, sitting beside lakes, or taking the scenic route home. Summer adventures do not have to be dramatic to be holy.

A quiet walk can become prayer.

A fishing boat can become sanctuary.

A family picnic can become communion.

A long drive can become space for healing.

Even getting lost can sometimes become the place where grace finally catches up to us. Psalm 84 reminds us that blessed people are not those who avoid the journey, but those who discover that God travels with them through it. **And perhaps that is the deeper invitation of summer: not merely escape, but attentiveness. To notice beauty again. To slow down. To breathe more deeply. To remember that this world still shimmers with God’s presence.**

So wherever this summer takes you — across the country or simply onto your back porch — may you discover that the living God is already there ahead of you. And may the highways of your heart lead you, again and again, toward God—toward joy. Blessings to you always in the name of the One who travels with us on the highways.

—Pastor Christine

Youth Ministries

Graduates Recognized

Our graduates, Darrent Butler and Emily Lenca were honored at our Graduate Recognition during worship on June 7th. Pastor Cheryl Johnson presented the Carl & Marion Johnson Memorial Scholarship to Emily Lenca.





Vacation Bible School

**Tuesday—Thursday
August 11, 12, 13**

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade this fall are invited to join in a mission to discover God's incredible love and share it with others! 6th graders and older are encouraged to serve as helpers. Friends are invited as well!



Children will engage in amazing experiences that will guide them through God's Word in unforgettable, multisensory, and thought-provoking ways that make Scripture come alive and help faith flow into real life.

Letters and registration forms were mailed out to families. If we missed you, let Patti know! Kids, invite your friends to join you at VBS! Registration forms are also available in the church office or downloaded from our website at www.e-mmanuel.com. Return the registration form to the church office as soon as possible or by July 27th so we can make our final plans.

**Deadline to register is
Monday, July 27th.**





Emmanuel Youth entering grades 7th – 12th

Mark your calendars for our confirmation/youth retreat **Saturday-Sunday, August 29-30.** This year our retreat will be at the home/hobby farm of Patti and Rob Treptow.

Youth will enjoy tubing and/or fishing on the calm Oconto River, swimming in a spring-fed pond and learn about llamas and mini donkeys. We will strengthen our faith and friendships as we participate in breakout sessions, a prayer labyrinth and a night walk.

Our 9th grade confirmation students will take part of their retreat time to prepare for their affirmation of baptism by making their confirmation stoles and writing their faith statement/faith testimony.

We will be tenting on the property and additional tents may be needed. Also, we may be in need of additional life jackets and floating tubes. If you have any of these items that we can borrow, let Patti know.

Detailed information will be mailed to families this month.



GLOW Youth Group 7th-12th grade **EVERY Wednesday 6:00-7:30 p.m.**



Our Glow youth added some marigolds to the flower garden around the front sign.

Adult Ministries

Prayer Group

Returning in September at 9:30 on Wednesday mornings

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

Returning in autumn at 1:00pm on the 1st Thursdays

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

Gentle Yoga

Returning in fall. Date to be announced.

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

Congregational Financial Update

(through May 31, 2026)

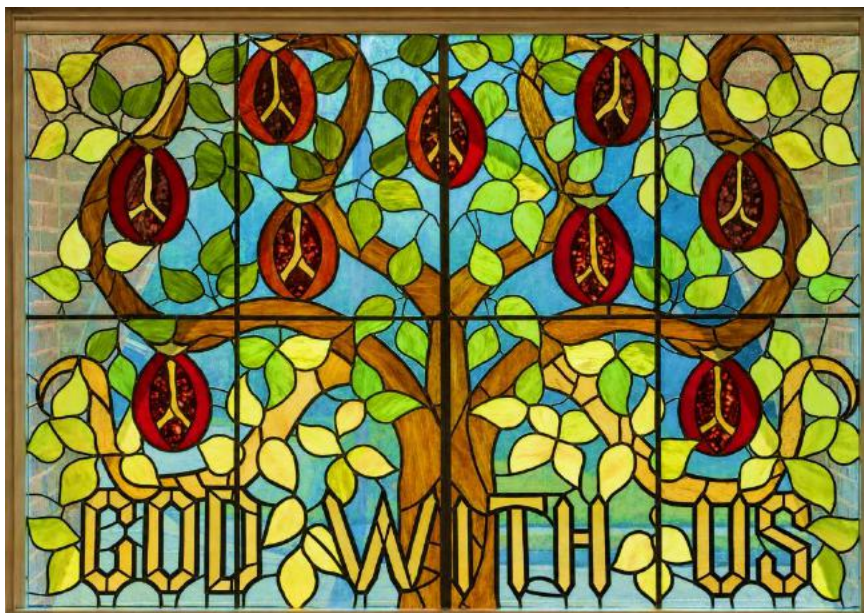
Approved 2026 budgeted offerings received: \$100,415.83

Amount behind approved budget: \$2,712.17

Total offerings and income received: \$106,793.28

Total expenses: \$107,115.51

Expenses greater than income by \$322.23

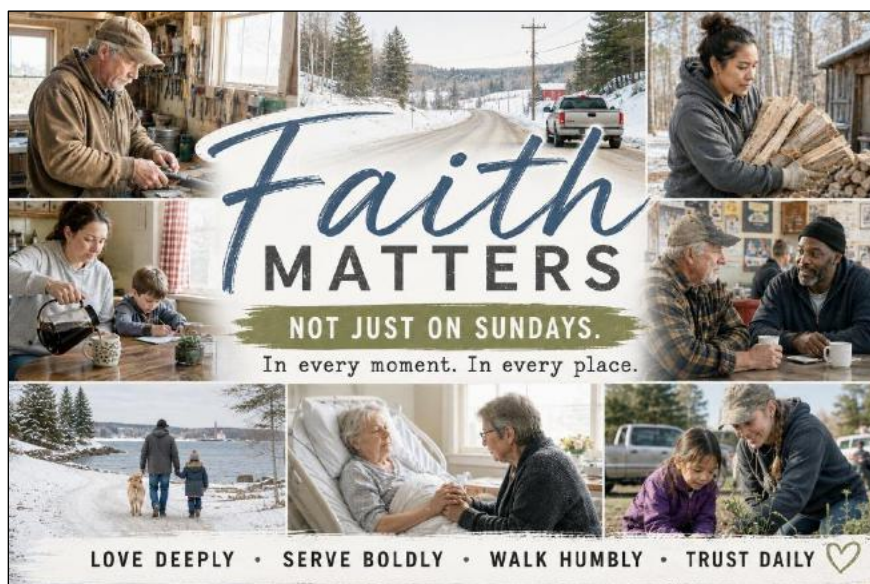


Wish to Join?

**Are you involved and connected to Emmanuel,
but not yet an official member?**

Pastor Christine will be doing a New Member Orientation this September and we will receive new members into our congregation in October or November.

Please call the church office (906-863-3431) or email the pastor (pastor2901@e-mmanuel.com) to let us know that you want to join. **EVEN IF you think the pastor already knows, please contact us to make sure.** (We don't like to be presumptuous.)



People in our congregation have been standing up in worship to share some of their faith stories with us.

We are blessed to have heard from several who have already shared:

Jim Briar
 Jeremy Sallgren
 Kacy Eland
 Cookie Kramer
 Jeremy Camps

Holly Bayerl
 Brianna Camps
 Matt Vanni
 Eileen Beyer
 Cindy Smith

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

Jeff Bayerl on July 12th

to share some of his faith story! We hope you come to hear.

Travis Rod will share on August 9th.



Opportunities for Diving Deeper into Experiential Faith

As Lutherans, we are often in our heads. We are *thinkers* and *know-ers*. I love this about being Lutheran! I love that we take God's word (*the scriptures/Bible*) and God's Word (*Jesus Christ himself*)

seriously. I love that we think things through and do things thoughtfully. Yet, we often have not been taught what to do with our *feelings*, especially when those feelings are overwhelming or painful. We also have a hard time entering into the MYSTERY of God and the WONDER of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I love how our Sunday liturgy leads us to see Jesus for who he really is and gives us order that helps us feel safe. Yet, there is not much room in those same services for the *EXPERIENCE* of exploring the Holy Spirit or the Spirit's gifts, which do not often fit into a set liturgy.

So, what to do about this predicament?

I am beginning to offer several worship and faith experiences to help us access our hearts and the mystery of faith a bit more. This is partly thanks to the recent study: *The Familiar Stranger*. The people in that class realized, through our conversations and learning, that the Holy Spirit IS and HAS BEEN active in their lives, though many started

the class being uncertain about that fact. So, I wondered what I might do to help y'all better CONNECT to God, to Jesus, and to the Holy Spirit. **We need spaces where we can feel comfortable with mystery, wonder, and even letting feeling in. That's what I hope to do—to create spaces and experiences where we can truly get to KNOW God as a real person in our lives (or get to know God *better*).**

Look for such opportunities on these following three pages and in future newsletters and bulletins.

These opportunities are for anyone who wants to come, according to the ages listed under each offering. No sign-up sheets will be out; no RSVP necessary.

Experiential Faith Opportunities in July



God of All Creation

Monday, July 13 at 6:00 PM
at Red Arrow Park in Marinette
Meet in the side parking lot,
the one with the boat ramp

Bring a camp chair or a towel/blanket to sit on and join Pastor Christine at the park where we will look at God's creation in order to see what we can learn about the Creator. We will listen and look; reflect and breathe. We will share in conversation (*for whoever wants to speak—no pressure to share!*) about what we see and encounter. **We will pray and give thanks to God for everything around us and all we experience.**

All people, all ages are welcome—*families with young children too!* All personality types (*outgoing and shy, certain and uncertain, members, guests, and strangers*) are welcome!



Lunchtime Care, Share, + Prayer Session

Wednesday, July 15 at 12:10 PM
**in the conference room, down the hall by
the church offices**

Come together with other sisters and brothers in Christ to ask questions, express doubts, explore wonderings, and find support in your faith life with one another. Pastor Christine is offering space for conversation about faith and life. **We may not come away with a concrete “answer”, but the work of supporting each other, praying for one another, seeking God through questions and experience, and being present to one another is holy and healing work.** Join us! Bring your lunch with you, if you like, to get back to work on time. *All people ages 21+ are welcome!*



Prayerful Hearts and Healing Service

Monday, July 20 at 5:00 PM
in the Chapel (*music/choir room*)

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 service of prayer, healing, and reflection on the third Monday of each month. Together we will explore healing in God's light and love. *All people ages 10+ are welcome!*



Seeking Jesus

Monday, July 20 at 6:00 PM

and/or Wednesday, July 29 at 2:00 PM

and/or Wednesday, July 29 at 6:00 PM

in the Chapel

Spend some time with Jesus! Use your imagination to create a place in your soul/mind and then invite Jesus to come and talk with you. 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 to be present to God's Presence. In these sessions, she will teach anyone who wants to learn. **ANYONE can learn this prayer 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 prayer session, we learn to engage the heart and soul as well. *All people ages 15+ are welcome!*



TO HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO
COMMUNE WITH GOD

TO FEEL SAFE WHILE
EXPLORING SPIRITUALITY

TO HEAR GOD SPEAK WITH
THAT "STILL, SMALL VOICE"

TO BETTER KNOW GOD'S
PEACE AND LOVE

TO MORE DEEPLY FEEL THE
MOVEMENT OF THE SPIRIT

TO GROW IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Thank You!

Thank you for a BEAUTIFUL Installation service and meal! The pastor is grateful.





Are you getting our emails?

The pastor sends out emails to let Emmanuel members know about events, activities, or reminders. She usually sends around one a week. **If you have not been receiving these emails, please contact the pastor or church office and give your email address.** Thanks!

Need a Visit?



Do you know of a member of the church who is homebound or in a care home and could use visits for Communion and pastoral care from the pastor and Visitation Team? **Please call the**

church office and let us know. *If you are calling on behalf of someone other than yourself, please first ask them if they would like visits from the pastor.*

Even if you're temporarily immobile—for instance, after surgery or during an illness—you are eligible to receive visits. **If you will be out of church for 2 months or more, the visits can bring God's Word, the sacrament (Holy Communion), and companionship during that time.** *You do NOT need to be on your deathbed to be visited.*

If you or another church member is in the hospital, please let us know as soon as possible. The pastor will do her best to visit: depending on location and duration of hospital stay.

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:



Friday—Saturday, July 10 & 11

September 18 & 19

October 2 & 3

This is a big fundraiser for our church and it's FUN to do!

Thank you for your help!

Fellowship Opportunities

We will be offering group opportunities to attend the summer concerts at the Bandshell Menominee and will post a notice of dates, so be on the lookout! We will be doing a paint and potluck in October — always a fun event. Thank you! - Sue Larson

Dear Friends,

Thank you for donating 371 children's books to the "Books for Kids" project at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Jackson, MI. We started the project in May 2015 and have shared 36,481 books to date.

One Saturday a month, we share books with children, parents, and grandparents at the food pantry at the church. Folks come up to the tables we have filled with books and choose as many as they want. Activity books, coloring books, and crayons are also available. Each month we now share an average of 300+ children's books. We are so grateful for your donation. Thank you for your support.

See you next June for Graduate/Scholarship Sunday.

In Christ, *Pastor Cheri and Wayne*

9:00 AM Summer Worship Schedule

We have ONE worship service during the summer, at 9:00AM. **Summer worship time**

will continue through September 6 (*Labor Day weekend*).



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

OUTDOOR Worship

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.



Building Maintenance Project UPDATE

Our church building needs some work. (See earlier newsletters for more details.) *With everything needed, we expect the total cost to be around \$30,000.*

So far, we have been given \$9,082 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



REGISTER NOW!

Join us for the 2026 Fall
Lifelong Faith Formation Classes

Register for ONE or ALL of the Classes

The Church's Role in a Divided Society: Public Deliberative Dialog

With Rev. Sharolyn Swenson and Rev. J. Michael Mills

One Session on Thursday, September 24, 2026

Held in-person at Bethany, Ishpeming, MI with Zoom curated space also available.

6:30-8:30 pm Eastern / 5:30-7:30 pm Central

Encountering God in the Modern Middle East

With Todd Holmstrom – Mondays, September 21, 28, and October 5, 12

7:00-8:00 pm Eastern / 6:00-7:00 pm Central

Lutheranism 101: Lens, God's Grace, and Essentials

With Bishop Katherine Finegan, Rev. Tim Johnston, and Rev. J. Michael Mills

7:00-8:00 pm Eastern / 6:00-7:00 pm Central

Thursday, October 29 – The Lutheran Lens

Wednesday, November 4 – God's Grace

Wednesday, November 11 – Essential Lutheran Tidbits

The Pollinator Garden

With members of the NE MN Synod Pollinator Plot Steering Committee
and Good Shepherd, Peshtigo, WI

One Session on Thursday, September 17

7:00 – 8:30 pm Eastern / 6:00 – 7:30 pm Central

The Prophets: Their Voice, Context, and Significance

With Rev. Philip Johnson - Tuesdays, October 20, 27, and November 3, 10

7:00-8:15 pm Eastern, 6:00-7:15 pm Central

Walking through Mark: Preparing for Year B

With Rev. Nicole Hanson-Lynn - Sundays, September 20 – November 15

7:00-8:00 pm Eastern, 6:00-7:00 pm Central

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EMMANUEL

Worship: 9 AM in person

Online Worship 9:00 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.**

