

*Emanuel Lutheran Church*  
*February 2023*  
*Enlightener*



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**Emanuel Lutheran Church of Skandia , ELCA**



# *Congregational Leadership*

**Michael Holman, LLM**

**(231)824-6757 (cell) Email: holmi@1fj.com**

**Office Hours: Tuesday 1-5pm, Thurs. 9am-2pm**

## Council Members

Dan Bahrman  
Richard Cooke  
Lois Kokko  
Donna Oliver  
Jane Sims  
Jolene Kokko  
Sarah Kimball

## Office

Jolene Kokko ~  
Office Assistant

## Committee Leaders

Barb Bach ~ Stewardship  
Sarah Kimball ~ Outreach  
Betsy Koski ~ Christian  
Education  
Jane Sims ~ Worship & Music  
Pam Bahrman ~ Cemetery  
Business Manager  
Dale Weingartner ~  
Building & Property

*Emanuel Lutheran Church has both a Facebook page and website! Catch up on upcoming and past events, our monthly calendar and Enlightener newsletters at*

***[www.be-lutheran.org](http://www.be-lutheran.org)***



Sunday Worship begins at 11 a.m.  
through February.

***2023 Worship Times at Emanuel Lutheran Church***

***Dec-Feb 11AM      Mar-June 9AM***

## *Birthd~~ay~~ Blessings*

*February 7—Carol Wolf*

*February 9 -  
Sally Weingartner*

*February 10-Jacob Mackey*

*February 14-Betsy Koski*

*February 14-  
Michael Holman*

*February 15-Jon Berglund*

*February 17-  
Vernon Haglund*

*February 17-Donna Oliver*

*February 19-David Ridolphi*

*February 23-Sandi Ruotsi*

*February 25-Nina Ingalls*

*February 25-Cindy Shelton*

*February 28-Patti Bergdahl*



## *Anniversary Blessings*

*February 4-  
Dan & Pam Bahrman*



*Thank you to Betsy Koski for  
sponsoring the February bulletins  
in honor of family.*

*Thank you for serving during worship!*

### Date

2/05

2/12

2/19

2/26

### Lector

Betsy Koski

Christie Johnson

Sarah Kimball

Jesse Kainulainen

### Ushers

Donna Oliver & Patti Bergdahl

Dale Weingartner/Richard Cooke

Jesse & Leah Kainulainen

Bahrman Family

***“Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.” Psalm 118:5***

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, God’s grace and mercy continue to be with you always.

Think about it just a little; how many times have you called on the Lord in distress? Furthermore, what does it mean to call out in distress? Is it just in moments of fear or weakness that we call out? Do we call to the Lord when things look to be impossible to overcome? Surely all of these scenarios have a ring of truth to them yet I would suggest that there is more to it than a cry for help when we are troubled. During my recent staycation in Marquette, I had just such an opportunity, to call out to my Lord and that’s what I did. I called and gave thanks that I was in the right place at the right time, that there were knowledgeable people surrounding me, tending to my needs. It wasn’t easy to lie around waiting to get answers, all one could do is to place their trust in our creator God’s hands, believing that all will be okay.

We listen to the voice of the psalmist as it is declared to us that the Lord answers and sets us in a broad place. Many visions run through my mind as I contemplate what a broad place might be. Perhaps it is a wide-open expanse that isolates me from the evils of this world, or maybe it is like looking over a peaceful landscape, where all come to love one another. This broad place though is much more than any of that. The broad place we are taken to is God’s great gift of salvation given to us. When we place our trust in the Lord we then experience the fullness and richness of God’s grace and mercy. No longer will fear or loss be what drives our actions for we know with certainty that salvation is with us always.



It may have been more appropriate to begin this letter with a quote from the first verse of this psalm. "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever." Please read this psalm in its entirety and you will soon discover that it is cry of victory and thanksgiving. Soon we discover that God is in all things and wishes the best for us at all times. We recognize that there are people who reject this notion of being saved yet hang on to the belief that the work of the Lord is ever present offering the cup of salvation to all who wish to receive. So we end our song of praise and thanksgiving just as we started it "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his steadfast love endures forever."

Shalom,

Michael

<b>February Scriptures</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
February 5	Sirach 15:15-20	Psalm 37:16-18	Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29
February 12	Daniel 4: 34-35	Psalm 84: 1-7	Matthew 13: 24-35
February 19	2 Peter 1: 16-21	Psalm 41:7-10	Matthew 16: 24- 17:8
February 26	Romans 5: 12-19	Psalm 32:1-2	Matthew 18:15-35



*Prayer Shawl  
Ministry*

We have many beautiful hand made Prayer Shawls available for those in need. Prayer shawls are given to those who are experiencing a difficult time, are in need of comfort and healing, to let them know they are not alone and to provide them with a sense of God's peace and healing. Please let the office know if you would like one, or know of someone in need of a prayer shawl.

*“You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “ You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

*~James 2:8*



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

Have you heard the phrase, “Birds of a feather flock together?”

This little saying acknowledges what we all know; we gravitate towards the familiar and the comfortable. We like to be with people who think like us, behave like us, believe the same things as us, maybe even look like us. It's natural. I suppose some anthropologist could give a long treatise on herd mentality or the role such affinity plays in survival.

Other observers of societal norms would offer that social media has intensified this phenomenon. Online algorithms supply us with posts that affirm our foregone conclusions. Worse, there are more than a few memes out there that characterize anyone with an opposing view as being fair game for mockery or dismissed as unworthy. Beware of viewpoints portrayed in the extreme, with no room for nuance or grey area.

It is becoming more and more rare that people gather with birds of another feather, where their world view or assumptions or convictions are challenged. People talk about echo chambers, where we proclaim what we believe to be true only to hear it echo back to us as proof.

The thing is, if we only surround ourselves with people who agree with us, if we never encounter a contrary opinion and explore it for its valid points, if we avoid conversations that invite deeper thinking, broader understanding, or a push back against what we consciously or unconsciously believe to be true then we have stopped learning and our lack of engagement contributes to the polarization of our society and the underlying anger that results from feeling misunderstood.

A remedy for this is intentional engagement and deep listening, not to argue a point or change someone's mind, but to understand the reasons that support another perspective. To that end, our Synod will be offering a Lenten Kaleidoscope Challenge. Our NGLS Kaleidoscope in Christ task force seeks to provide more opportunities for our synod to see others through the eyes of Jesus so that we can better, as James and elsewhere in scripture urges, “love your neighbor as yourself.”

Because it is more than a little difficult to love what we do not understand or stay present with topics or people that make us uncomfortable. So during Lent, you are invited to engage the resources on our website under The Kaleidoscope Challenge. Short videos, articles, movies, and books are linked there for you to watch, read, and study. I encourage you to consciously lower your defenses, raise your awareness, and learn something new about racial equity, our indigenous neighbors, and the LGBTQIA+ community. And you are invited to join a small group of people every week via zoom to process and discuss the resources for that week. What do you have questions about? What surprised you? What challenged you? What pricked your compassion? Your curiosity? Your emotions?

On our synod website, [nglsynod.org/christ-kaleidoscope-challenge](https://nglsynod.org/christ-kaleidoscope-challenge), you can register for the cohort of your choosing. A variety of leaders, dates, and times are available.

At a time when people are quick to anger and disagree, I hope that our Church and your church can lead the way toward mutual respect and understanding. As Martin Luther once said, "God doesn't need your good works, but your neighbor does." For the sake of community, for the sake of the command of Jesus to love, for the sake of our neighbor, let us do the homework that will lead to authentic witness and put the love we have for Jesus into action.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan



**Thank you** for your continued support of our outdoor food pantry! Now that the winter season is here, we cannot put canned items in the pantry since they will freeze. A winter seasonal list of dry foods and personal items is now available, and thank you for this much appreciated community



We continue to collect Econo Receipts to support World Hunger. The collection box is on the table near the far north window in the fellowship hall. Thank you to Toni Peterson for tabulating and submitting the receipts!



We continue collecting new or gently used socks, hats, mittens/gloves and children's underwear for the **Clothes Closet** at the Gwinn Elementary Schools for children in need and for those needing change of clothes while at school. We will collect them in the fellowship hall near the piano. Thank you for helping with this outreach opportunity!

Sarah Kimball



The **Souper Bowl of Caring** began in 1990 with a simple prayer said by Reverend Brad Smith at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina: "Lord, even as we enjoy the **Super Bowl** football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a **bowl** of soup to eat." Each year Emanuel takes part in this annual fundraising and food collection event. Beginning February 12 we are collecting canned soup and throughout the month, that will go to a local food pantry and \$1 donation that will go towards the Lutheran World Hunger Relief effort. Thank you for helping with this annual event.



### **5th Annual Skandia Lions Winter Carnival to Fight Hunger**

Saturday, Feb. 11, 10am-3pm at Maple Lane Archery and Ski Center ~ 124 Kreiger Dr.

Cross Country Skiing, Snow Shoeing,  
Sledding and Concessions

\$5 Donation Supports Local Food Pantries!





## **February Mobile Food Pantry Trucks**

(according to their website)

Wednesday, February 1, 12 Noon at

Eden Lutheran Church, 1150 M-28, **Munising**

Thursday February 2, 12 Noon at Building 604 at Avenue C and

Third, (Corner of Ave. C and Third Street) , **KI Sawyer**

Thursday, February 9, 10AM at Silver Creek Church Thrift Store

219 Silver Creek Road, **Harvey**

Wednesday, February 22, 12 Noon at NMU Berry Event Center

at 1401 Presque Isle , **Marquette**

Wednesday, March 1, 12 Noon at Eden Lutheran Church,

1150 M-28, **Munising**



## **Grow in Spirit, Faith and Understanding**

There's still time to register for Lifelong Faith Formation classes this winter. Sign up now for the online courses which begin in February, March and April. *An opportunity for important discussions.* **Beyond Policy: Empowering the Faith Community to Recognize and Respond to Child Abuse and Sexual Assault** with Pastor Kari Vadis of Trinity, Rhinelander Every Thursday, 12 noon ET/11 am CT February 9-March 2 (4 sessions), register by February 7. *Increasing awareness of God's presence in your life: Meeting Christ in Prayer* with Pastor Terry Frankenstein Every Thursday, 10:30 am–noon ET/9:30–11 am CT March 2-April 20 (8 sessions), register by February 16. *Great reading and lively conversation: Introduction to Family Systems Thinking & Book Study of Friedman's Fables—"Metaphors for Family Systems Thinking"* with Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop. Every Saturday, 11 am CT/10 am ET April 1-May 6 (5 sessions), register by March 11. Enjoy the conversations by signing up for the next set of classes.

For details and to register, [nclsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation](https://nclsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation).

If you have any questions, contact Deacon Lori Ward at

[lori.ward@nclsynod.org](mailto:lori.ward@nclsynod.org) or 615-519-1969.

Remember in Prayer ...

*Our members, family, and friends who are ill, have health concerns, are grieving, or are in need... our members and friends who are absent from worship and unable to attend. Prayers for Michael Holman, Sally Weingartner, Carol Mattson, Tom Mattson, Carol Wolf, Vernon Haglund, Clayton Johnson Sr., Giselle Duehring.*

*We pray for our pastoral leaders who have had recent health challenges.*

*For those recovering from surgery.*

*For those struggling for lack of energy and joy.*

*We pray for those impacted by tragedy and loss: multiple mass shootings, snowmobile accidents, fatalities on the road.*

*May God comfort all who mourn.*

*We pray for those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, that their efforts for justice will see the breaking in of God's reign.*

*Our Thanks and Praise to God. If you have a prayer request, for yourself or others, or would like to be on the prayer team, please let the office know by calling or by leaving a message at 906-942-7245 or by emailing emanuel @tds.net.*

*SO VERY  
thankful  
INCREDIBLY  
grateful.  
UNBELIEVABLY  
blessed.*



Emanuel was unbelievably blessed this December with the gift of our fuel oil bill being covered by the **Independence Fuel Distributor** of Big Bay. When our bill was received from them, it had a zero balance and the message "Merry Christmas!" We are incredibly grateful for their gift and for their reliable and efficient service these past years! **Thank you** Matt & Cassie Anderson for your gift & for your business of keeping our sanctuary warm for our worship services throughout the year!

## February 2023

Hours: Michael ~Tues. 1-5pm & Thurs. 9am-2pm(Please call first: (231)824-6757)

Jolene~ Wed. & Fri. 10am-2pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 11am Worship	6 AA Mtg 7pm	7	8	9	10	11
12 11am Worship	13 AA Mtg 7pm	14 	15	16	17	18
19 11am Worship	20 AA Mtg 7pm	21	22 	23	24	25
26 11am Worship	27 AA Mtg 7pm	28				
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f0ff;">                     Sunday, March 5 our                      Sunday Worship begins                      at 9am.                 </div>		

**The February Enlightener  
Emanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA  
P.O. Box 160  
Skandia, MI 49885**

*Emanuel Lutheran Church is a people centered  
in Christ, rich in heritage and beauty; living out  
Christ's openness to all. Our ministry is to  
spread the Word of God in our community  
through service, education and fellowship,  
creating a sense of family as we break bread  
together in the company of Christ.*

*Join Us for our Sunday Services at 11 a.m.*