

*Emanuel Lutheran Church*  
*July 2023*  
*Enlightener*



**Michael Holman, LLM**

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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

Barb Bach  
Ronda Barr  
Richard Cooke  
Christie Johnson  
Leah Kainulainen  
Sarah Kimball  
Jolene Kokko

## 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.

All are Welcome!

***2023 Worship Times at Emanuel Lutheran Church***  
***July-October 11AM/Nov-Feb. 9AM***

## *Birthday Blessings*

*July 9-John Maki*

*July 11- Mark Krans*

*July 14-Ryan Rickaby*

*July 19-Lee Whitaker*

*July 20 -Mary Heath*

*July 22-Ryan Yearicks*

*July 24-Leah Kainulainen*

*July 29- Elizabeth McCarthy*



## *Anniversary Blessings*

*July 13- Mark & Iva Arnett*

*July 13-Dale & Sally Weingartner*



*Thank you to Lois Kokko  
for sponsoring the July worship bulletins  
in honor of her family.*

*Thank you for serving during worship!*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
07/02	Sarah Kimball	Jesse & Leah Kainulainen
07/09	Christie Johnson	Bahrman Family
07/16	Jesse Kainulainen	Roger & Sarah Kimball
07/23	Patti Bergdahl	Tom & Barb Bach
07/30	Barb Bach	Richard Cooke



The ***Christ in Our Home*** daily devotional for July through September is available at the entrances to the sanctuary. If you would like one mailed to you, please let the office know: (906)942-7245.

***“ You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for the people to use, to bring forth food from the earth,” Psalm 104:14***

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, God’s grace and peace be with you,

There was a time in my life when I had about one acre of garden. It was wonderfully therapeutic, a break from the work day in many ways. Nothing was better than working up the soil, throwing down some seeds, sticking in some seedlings and watching it grow until harvest. Not only was this relaxing to me it also provided an abundance of fresh produce for eating right away and for storing for use during the winter months. The soil was rich and remained relatively weed free, it didn’t take much work to maintain it.

After moving to a new location, I discovered that gardening wasn’t always as easy as I had experienced in the past. Perhaps it was the soil conditions or maybe the climate, whatever the reason may have been learned that at times you have to work at things to improve them. The seeds would grow, the seedlings would become stronger but at times the yield would be reduced. The garden still provided just not as richly compared to past experience. With a little extra effort however, this garden also would produce bumper crops, enough to supply others with fresh vegetables. One had to amend the soils to enrich them, plants had to be protected from chilly nights, and weeds had to be kept at bay, then the earth would give up food for us.



Our psalmist points out in this reading that it is God who creates and provides for us. God is the one who brings forth the good things of this earth. The Lord causes the rains to fall, makes the plants grow and provides us with all the good fruits of the earth. God does this and so much more that we might have life. It is safe to say that all that we need God has provided, yet on occasion the fabric of our lives need a little amending. When our faith waivers we need a little extra help. Prayerfully we seek comfort and guidance. We are able to immerse ourselves in God’s word, turning to the scriptures to enrich our lives and discover once again the love that the Creator has for us. Our belief is reaffirmed that God is indeed the Creator and provider for all that we need.

Live well this summer refresh your spirit and revel in the marvels that God has surrounded us with.

Peace,  
Michael

<b>July Scriptures</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
July 2	2 Peter 1:1-11	Psalm 119: 129-136	Matthew 13: 44-46
July 9	2 Peter 1:162: 2, 15-19	Psalm 99	Matthew 17:1-9
July 16	2 Peter 3:1-10, 17-18	Psalm 122	Matthew 24:42-44
July 32	Proverbs 1:1-7, 3:1-8	Psalm 103: 1-13	Matthew 13:34-35
July 30	Proverbs 8 1-11, 22-36	Psalm 8	Matthew 28:16-20

*“Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.”* John 15:4



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

In early December of 2017, I was out in our front yard wrapping Christmas lights around a limb of a tree.

The limb was about 10 feet off the ground, and I was standing on a ladder, perhaps the third step down, in order to stretch the lights over and under the branch that extended horizontally. Finished with that particular section, I took one step down, but instead of the ladder remaining firmly stationary, it moved toward me. If I did nothing, I would fall to the ground from a painful height on my back. So I grabbed the limb of the tree and pulled toward it, thinking that this would stabilize the ladder and bring us both back upright.

No such luck. Instead of righting itself, the ladder fell away beneath me leaving me to cling briefly to the limb before falling to the ground. In my mind, in that slow motion moment, I felt like I could actually choose where I fell, like a kind of gymnastic dismount from the parallel bars. But in reality, I dropped like a bag of potatoes. And somewhere in the confusion of lights, ladder, and branch, the two fingers of my right hand were caught and pulled out, down, and around with a distinctive crunching sound that made me think of someone snacking on a mouthful of potato chips.

I had broken the bone in my hand that was connected to the ring finger and disrupted the surrounding bones and soft tissue. After several weeks in a splint and then cast, I was given my hand back, only to realize that in that brief time, my brain had decided that my hand no longer belonged to my body. It was still attached of course, but not in a way that gave it life and function. The physical therapist called it Chronic Reactive Pain Disorder. In short, my hand could no longer work as a hand should. I could not write or type, play piano or grab hold of things. It was a swollen useless thing. My brain, and my hand, needed to be retrained and reconnected to meaningful communication with the body, so that the brain would tell the body to send healing and reconnect the signals to the muscles of my hand.

So, what about meaningful connection in the body...the BODY... of Christ? What needs to be retrained? What needs to be reawakened for life and increased function as we are Church together?

My hand was brought back to life as I watched the 2018 Winter Olympics. While watching gymnasts who actually knew how to land a dismount, I put my hand in hot water for two minutes and then in ice water for 30 seconds – back and forth, night after night. Then exercises, and physical therapy, and more tricks on the brain to get my hand to function in a way that was useful to the body.

Jesus, thankfully, does not suggest that we all dunk ourselves in tubs of hot and cold water to be reconnected as a body. Rather, Jesus talks about connectedness as abiding in him in order to bear fruit. And the way that we abide is by being in relationship with him. And that relationship is conveyed to us in at least two ways: through study of scripture and through relationship with each other as the body of Christ. Again...BODY.

When the Synod Council met in retreat June 9 -10, we agreed to initiate an effort for us to abide, as a whole Synod, as 79 congregations spanning hundreds of miles and in a variety of communities and contexts, by dwelling on the same passages of scripture over a 12-month period.

We will abide with Jesus by dwelling in the Word. Each congregation will receive 12 different passages of scripture, one for each month. And at each council meeting and quilter group, at each Sunday School and youth group meeting, at each and every gathering that month, people from across the synod will dwell with the same text. No preparation is needed. No theological degree is required. Very simply:

1. Invite one person to read the text aloud.
2. Consider silently the following:
  - A. What do you notice?
  - B. What questions do you have?
  - C. Where might the Holy Spirit be leading us?
3. Then have another person read the text aloud again.
4. Share your thoughts about the questions with each other.
5. Close with prayer.

We shall abide. And in abiding, in dwelling with the presence of Christ in the word, and considering the work of the Spirit with each other, we will connect with the one who makes us one, who gathers us as a BODY to embody the love of Christ in the world and for the world.

In addition, all are invited to join the Synod Council as we dwell in the word, via Zoom, the **first Thursday of the month**, starting Thursday **September 7 at 7:30 pm ET / 6:30 pm CT**. The Zoom link will be available on our website and in E-Notes and you can add it to your online calendars.

The impact of being disconnected, of having the body forget who it is connected to and why, cannot be overestimated. We need each other to be the body of Christ, and we need the Holy Spirit of Christ to clarify our mission and purpose as that Body. By dwelling in the word together, we shall abide...in Christ, in the Word, in the presence of Christ in each other.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan

***Summer Camp Options still Available!***

Registration for summer camp programming continues to fill up! [Visit Fortune Lake's website](http://www.fortunelake.org) at [www.fortunelake.org](http://www.fortunelake.org) to check out the many summer program options and register for camp while there's still time! Emanuel has scholarships available for both congregational members and nonmembers. If you need more information or have any questions, please talk to Michael.



Please let Michael or the church office know if you or a family member is hospitalized or ill. We want to be sure to keep in touch with support and prayers. If you can't notify Emanuel, please ask a family member to do so. Michael: (231)824-6757





*Memorial for Donna Oliver*

*Sunday, July 23, 12N-5PM at the Skandia Township Hall*

You are invited to join us as we celebrate the life of Donna Oliver. Brats and burgers will be provided. Bring a lawn chair and, if desired, a cold dish or dessert to pass.



We will be supporting the Marquette County Habit for Humanity this summer by supplying a lunch for the building crew in July. Please let me know if you will be able

to supply any items. Prayer partners will be revealed and new ones chosen during the Sunday, July 23rd fellowship time. The forms to fill out are on the kitchen counter, or let the office know if you would like one mailed to you.

(906)942-7245. Thank you for your support, Sarah Kimball

**Special  
Congregational Meeting**



The cemetery lawn mower quit running and is unrepairable. We will be holding a congregational meeting to review three bids for a new mower and vote on its purchase on **Sunday, July 16** following our 11am worship service. Please plan on attending this important meeting!

*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. Prayers for Mary Lou Behrens and the family of Clayton Johnson, Ronda Barr, Al, Iva Arnett,*

*Michael Holman, Carol Mattson, Tom Mattson, Dan Mattson, Carol Wolf, Vernon Haglund, Sally Weingartner.*

*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 the office at:*

*Emanuel@tds.net*

## ***June Council Meeting Highlights***

~ Thank you letters were received ; the Alger Marquette Community Action for our April benevolence to the Marquette County Community Baby Shower which served 78 new mothers, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp for our memorial gift for Donna Oliver for a camper's scholarship

~Motion was made and carried to support the summer food program at the Gwinn School using \$200 from Emanuel's Mission Fund.

~Our large outdoor lighted sign is shut off for the summer season. The broken glass pane in the steeple needs to be replaced.

~Cemetery Committee Chairman Pam Bahrman shared that the current nine year old cemetery lawn mower is in the shop for repairs. We are looking at the possibility of its replacement (once repaired ) and keeping it at the Haglund Cemetery instead of trailering it back and forth to Emanuel. If that is done, a storage building is needed at the Haglund Cemetery. Multiple trees are in need of trimming at both cemeteries. Bids are being sought.

~Michael has made visits to the hospital. We had an interment at the Emanuel Cemetery May 20. Received information from Rev. Marna Franson Soul Shop "Building, Faith Communities that are Suicide Wiser" which they offer presentations about to congregations. Rev. Rell Spickerman will be leading worship Sunday, June 25 as Michael attends a family event downstate.

~We received and reviewed the preliminary plans from Nate Jurmu, Professional Engineer for the Accessibility Ramp to the sanctuary. After discussion, an increase to 42" width of the ramp is recommended.

~Plants, Pies and Summer Buys proceeds of approximately \$1200 which is going to the cost of the Accessibility Ramp.

~**Skandia Days & Community Festival is Saturday, July 15** beginning at 11AM. Emanuel will participate using the cardboard model on a trailer. Sarah will make candy bags including an invitation to Emanuel's Sunday Worship services. All are encouraged to participate!

~Jolene will be working in the office Wednesdays only this summer beginning in July.

~Both the May 2023 Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports were reviewed and found in order with no outstanding bills.


~The next council meeting is Sunday, July 16 at 12:30 PM.

~June Council Meeting minutes and financial reports are posted on the bulletin boards in the fellowship hall and main entrance.

## July 2023

*Office Hours: Michael~Tuesday 1-5pm, and Thursdays  
9am-2:30pm      Jolene: Wednesdays 10:30am-4:30pm*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Sat
						1
2 11 AM- Worship	3 AA Meeting 7 PM	4 	5	6	7	8
9 11 AM Worship	10 AA Meeting 7 PM	11	12	13	14	15 Skandia Communi- ty Days
16 11 AM Worship Council Meeting 12:30PM	17 AA Meeting 7 PM	18	19	20	21	22
23 11 AM Worship / Congre- gational Meeting	24 AA Meeting 7 PM	25	26	27	28	29
30 11 AM Worship	31 AA Meeting 7 PM					

**The July 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,*