

Emanuel Lutheran Church
December 2023
Enlightener



Michael Holman, LLM

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Emanuel Lutheran Church: 906-942-7245

emanuel@tds.net www.be-lutheran.org

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



Sunday Worship begins at 9 a.m.

All are Welcome!

2023 Worship Times at Emanuel Lutheran Church
Nov-Feb. 9AM/Mar-June 11AM

Birthday Blessings

December 1~

Jesse Kainulainen

December 2~Sue Ridolphi

December 5~Emma Maki

December 9~Andy Bahrman

December 11~

Jordan Berglund

December 14~Iva Arnett

December 17~

Sidney Heetland

December 27 ~

Gisele Duehring

December 29~Debbie Smith

Anniversary Blessings

December 28~

Ryan & Lani Yearicks



*Thank you Jane Sims for sponsoring
the December bulletins.*

Thank you for serving during worship!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
12/03	Jesse Kainulainen	Bahrman Family
12/10	Barb Bach	Richard Cooke
12/17	Sarah Kimball	Jesse & Leah Kainulainen
12/24	Needed	Needed
12/31	Needed	Needed



In case of inclement weather and our Sunday worship needs to be cancelled, our Facebook page will post it, an email will be sent to those online, Emanuel's phone message will state it and WLUC/TV6 will post closures. If the schools are closed during the week, the church office probably will be closed. Please call Emanuel before traveling during the week if questionable (906)942-7245.

“ For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever.” Psalm 9:18

Dear Sister and Brothers of the Christ, God’s peace and grace be with you always,

I’m writing this to you on Giving Tuesday. At this time, I believe that I have received at least fifty, possibly more, emails urging me to give this day. A portion of each plea is to inform me that by giving today the gift would be matched. Indeed, this is a noble thing to do yet it puzzles me that this is not done on a daily basis. Do we have to have some sort of incentive to share of our abundance?

Of late we have been inundated with advertising urging us to buy this or that at huge savings that we could surprise someone with the perfect gift. Once again, I say that this is not necessarily a bad thing yet I cannot help but wonder why prices are not stable year-round, perhaps I should have paid greater attention macro-economics class all those years ago. We are for sure being prodded, poked and encourage to give and give often this time of year.


You however do not confine your giving to this particular season, for you give generously from your hearts year-round. You have always looked at our community and focused on fulfilling the needs of others. Support is given to those who are food challenged, we lift up those who care for people in need of medical assistance, and help as we are able to provide shelter for those who need it. You do all of this out of generosity, not for some reward, merely out of love for creation.



While we wait for the light to appear in the darkness, we do not give up hope. Our Hope is for peace in this time. Our hope is for peace in the future. Our hope is that all will come to know the love found in Jesus the Christ. We have been given the greatest gift of all, life, and because of this we are able to bring love and life to a world that is struggling to find peace. Keep your hearts open, letting the light of Christ shine through you that others might see. Blessings to you and yours.

Shalom,
Michael

December Scriptures	Reading	Psalm	Gospel
December 3	Jeremiah 33: 10-11, 14-18	Psalm 25: 1-10	Mark 8:27-29
December 10	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85: 1-2,8-13	Mark 1:1-4
December 17	Ezra 1:1-4;3: 1-4,10-13	Psalm 24: 7-10	Luke 2:25-32
December 24		Psalm 113	Luke 1:5-13, 14-25,57-80
December 31		Psalm 91: 9-12	Mark 1:1-20



Please let Michael or the church office know if you or a family member is hospitalized, ill, homebound or in need of help. We want to be sure to be here for you, with support, prayers and visits. If you can't notify Emanuel, please ask a family member to do so. Michael: (231)824-6757 Emanuel (906)942-7245.



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

By the time you read this, I will have completed leading a book study through our Lifelong Faith Formation classes on “Embracing God’s Future without Forgetting the Past: A Conversation about Loss, Grief, and Nostalgia in Congregational Life.” It is a sobering read, full of truth about what many of our congregations are facing and how grief is being experienced.

The author, former bishop Michael Girlinghouse, advises that this grief must be processed before a congregation can move forward, and he offers some ideas, workshops, and methods of how to address this grief, not just as individuals, but as communities of faith that are collectively experiencing loss and change.

I agree with him that naming the points of pain regarding loss is important. And I believe that we are only just beginning to understand what those points of pain are, as our congregations are at different places in the arc of their lifecycles and facing these challenges at different times.

I did suspect when I accepted this call to a second term that the church was going to change more in the next six years than it had in the past twenty. Changes in the last 20 - 30 years have sort of snuck up on us. But the challenges we thought of then a “some day maybe” have now arrived.

With shifts in culture, with the acceleration of institutional decline pushed by Covid, with anxiety increasing, there is gathering momentum to do more to equip lay leaders for the work of ministry.

Of course, the work of ministry has always rested on lay leaders who more often than not are working in partnership with a pastoral leader or Keeping ministry in motion during pastoral transition. However, increasingly fewer people are entering seminary. And while it is true that fewer congregations can afford a full-time pastor, even the ones that have the financial capacity must compete with each other for a shrinking pool of pastoral leaders.

Yet, our synod is a great place to serve in ministry! I have observed a respect for the pastoral office and a deep appreciation for that partnership . I see people who love their church and the ministry accomplished through their combined efforts, and all of it in communities that have a sense of what it means to be neighbor. There is pride in self-sufficiency: the garden, the homemade, the do-it-yourself kind of attitude. Add to that the beauty of God's creation and we want to ask who wouldn't want to live here?

Unfortunately, as I seek to recruit pastoral leaders, we are an unknown entity. Much as I try to educate, it is the exceptional pastoral candidate that is willing to move to the northern top of the U.S. possibly away from family.

So....what is the answer to this current challenge?

I appeal to your own sense of pride in the homemade. Look around your congregations. Who has gifts for ministry? Who is already leading? We have several Lay Schools (with NGLS scholarship funds available) ready to equip people for the work they are already doing. Between the Lay school offered at Luther Seminary to the Lay schools in our neighboring synods of the Northern Synod of Wisconsin and the East Central Synod of Wisconsin, the tools needed to equip lay leaders for ministry are within reach. I suggest we raise up our own leaders who can then discern if they have a call to ordained ministry (we have scholarship funds for seminary too) or wish to be equipped, educated, and supported for a larger role as a lay leader.

I am grateful to our currently serving Licensed Lay Ministers, and to our lay leaders and congregation members who are such an asset and blessing to the work of Christ. As I continue to recruit pastoral leaders TO our synod, I ask you to do the same IN our synod. Whatever the future brings, I know that the work of Christ will continue.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan



Saturday, December 16, 9am-1pm

Holiday Bake Sale/Basket Raffle/

Quilt and Handcrafted Items Raffle

We are planning to have our annual quilt and homemade craft raffle along with a bake sale and basket raffle too! We hope you can stop in for a warm drink and enjoy this opportunity to visit with others and take a chance on winning many beautiful raffle baskets! Can you help by baking something for the bake sale? We are in need of cookies, bars, breads or candies. Raffle tickets for the quilt (2) and handcrafted items are now available to sell/buy \$2 each or \$5 for three tickets. If you have any questions, or can help the day of the event too, please give the office a call anytime 906-942-7245. Thank you for your help to make this community event a success!

Our Christmas baskets will be given on **Tuesday, December 19**. Along with the help of grants from Thrivent Financial, a special offering and your donations of food items this is a much appreciated outreach event! This holiday, food donations include green beans, jello, mushroom soup and canned cranberry sauce. Due to no children's gifts needed this year, we are collecting hats and durable mittens or gloves for the Gwinn schools!



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 resource!



Poinsettias will adorn the sanctuary at our Christmas Eve Worship service. The flowers are purchased by the Altar Guild as a group and the cost is \$10 each. A sign –up sheet is on the table entering the fellowship hall. If you are purchasing a poinsettia in the honor or in the memory of someone, please note it on the list.



Our weekly Advent services are **Tuesdays, December 5, 12, and 19 at 2. p.m.** Bring a friend and join us! Followed by fellowship.

On Christmas Eve we will be having two services. At 9am we will be celebrating the Fourth Sunday in Advent and at 5 pm we have our traditional Christmas Eve service. We hope you plan on joining us for worship!



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 Oscar, Mary Lou Behrens, Jon, Matthew, Mary Heath, Bonnie Pelto, Allie, Rosie Howard, Al, Carol Mattson, Tom 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, by leaving a message at 906-942-7245, or by emailing the office at:

Emanuel@tds.net

Please let the office know when our prayer list needs to be updated with names added or removed. Thank you!

November 12, 2023 Council Highlights

~ Devotions led by Michael with “Dwelling in the Word” reading of Luke 16:1-13 and reflection followed with provided questions. All are encouraged to read the monthly readings supplied by Northern Great Lakes Synod and joining them via zoom for follow-up discussion, all information found on their website: **www.nglsynod.org**

~November’s Heart to Heart potluck lunch with fellowship was well attended.

~We will giving twenty Thanksgiving Food Baskets on Tuesday, November 21.

~Stewardship letter along with the giving , time and talent forms went out. We will receive them on Sunday, December 3 during worship.

~The outside sign was adjusted for lighting with time change and shorter daylight hours now. Roger put up posts to deter gravel from being plowed into the cemetery and also placed on some boundary areas. He also graded the parking lot to smooth ruts from tree service truck. Richard repaired micro food pantry door that had blown off.

~Michael shared that COVID cases are on the rise again. He met with Rabbi Len. We are asked to pray during this time of conflict .

~ Wayne Premeau visited to possibly submit a bid for the accessibility ramp to the sanctuary.

~SAIL, Superior Alliance for Independent Living is our November local benevolence.

~Both the financial secretary and treasurer’s October reports were reviewed and found in order with no outstanding bills.

~The next Council Meeting is Tuesday, December 19, at 5:30 p.m.


Complete minutes and financial reports are posted on the bulletin boards in the fellowship hall and main entrance.

December 2023

Michael Tues. & Thurs. 10am-3 pm

Jolene: Wed. & Fri. 10:30am-2:30pm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship 9am	4 AA Meeting 7pm	5 Advent Worship 2pm	6	7	8	9
10 Worship 9am	11 AA Meeting 7pm	12 Advent Worship 2pm	13	14	15	16 Bake Sale/ Raffle 9am- 1pm
17 Worship 9am	18 AA Meeting 7pm	19 Advent Worship 2pm Council 5:30pm	20	21	22	23
24 Worship 9am Christmas Eve Worship 5 pm	25 AA Meeting 7pm 	26	27	28	29	30
31 Worship 9am						

**The December 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 9 AM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5 pm.*