

Emanuel Lutheran Church
December 2024
Enlightener



Pastor Lloyd Luedeman

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Emanuel Lutheran Church: 906-942-7245

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Emanuel Lutheran Church of Skandia , ELCA



Congregational Leadership

Rev. Lloyd Leo Leudeman

**Cell: (920)740-2523
pastorlloydll@gmail.com**

Council Members

Barb Bach
Ronda Barr
Patti Bergdahl
Richard Cooke
Christie Johnson
Leah Kainulainen
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
Richard Cooke ~
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 11 a.m.
through February.

***2024 Worship Times at Emanuel Lutheran Church
November-February 11AM, March-June 9AM***

Birthday Blessings

December 1~

Jesse Kainulainen

December 2~Sue Ridolphi

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 Todd & Ronda Barr
for sponsoring the December worship bulletins
and the donation of Emanuel's Christmas tree.*

Thank you for serving during worship!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Usher(s)</u>
12/01	Patti Bergdahl	Tom & Barb Bach
12/08	Sarah Kimball	Jesse & Leah Kainulainen
12/15	Jesse Kainulainen	Bahrman Family
12/22	Barb Bach	Richard Cooke
12/29	Betsy Koski	Roger & Sarah Kimball



With our winter season here, if inclement weather causes our Sunday Worship services to be cancelled we will have a message stating it at **906-942-7245 and on TV6**. We will also post it on our Facebook page. Please call if the roads and conditions are questionable before traveling. During the week, if schools are cancelled or conditions are questionable, the church office may be closed until conditions improve.

Pastor's Piece for December 2024

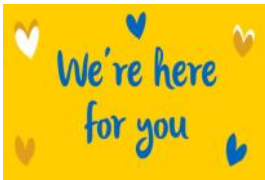


“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’” Luke 2:8-14

Well, here we are! It's good to be back in Marquette County during December! I love December for a variety of reasons, but mostly because of Christmas. I love the Christmas season for a lot of reasons...all of which are related to us receiving the greatest gift ever-that of our Savior's birth. Someone once said that “the best gift is one that brings us together.” If you are like Amy and I you are knee deep in the gift acquisition process. You are making a list, checking it twice, and trying to figure out who has been naughty or nice! So that you can enjoy giving your loved ones and friends a gift that truly represents the heart of this season for you-one that will bring you closer together with them. Thinking of all this giving and receiving reminds of the time that three women started boasting about their sons. “What a Christmas I had last year,” exclaimed the first lady. My son, that wonderful boy, threw me a big party in a fancy restaurant. He even paid for plane tickets so my friends could join us. “That's very nice, said the second lady but listen to this, “last winter, my son gave me an all-expenses paid cruise to the Greek Islands...first class even!” “That's nothing,” interrupted the third, “for five years now, my son has been paying a psychiatrist \$150 an hour, three times a week. And the whole time he talks about nothing except me!” Gifts come in all shapes and sizes and they carry various meanings for different people. Names are one of the most important gifts we receive in our lives. Some are blessed to be born and receive their names during the Christmas season! Parents -to-be spend some significant time selecting just the right names for their unborn children.

There are dozens of “Baby Name” books and Internet sites to help with the selection. Moms and dads can scan through thousands of names to find the perfect one for their son or daughter. Some families carry on longstanding traditions of naming the firstborn after the father, mother or grandparents; others name a child after a favorite aunt or uncle. Whether they name the child in honor of a beloved relative or after a famous person, they do so in the hope that the child will come to embody the best qualities of his or her namesake. In the above verses from Luke’s gospel, the text describes the revealing of the baby Jesus as the promised Messiah. To call a person “Messiah” was equivalent to declaring that the era of the fulfillment of God’s promises was at hand. The name “Jesus” is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew name Joshua which literally means, “The Lord saves.” So just as Joshua embodied this name as he led God’s people into the promised land of Canaan, Jesus will embrace his name as he initiates a new era of salvation with the power of his resurrection that involves the free gift of salvation given to us through him to cleanse us from our sins and empower us to live fully as God’s people each day. Jesus’ name would have resonated deeply with the folks of his day. Those reading or hearing Luke’s text would have come away with raised expectations and a re-established hope of a new and dramatic action of God for the future of the world. This is the same hope we have today in our faith communities of Bethany-Negaunee and Emanuel-Skandia and in our individual families and larger community! And so, we approach Christmas through the lens of Advent-anticipating the coming of Jesus the Messiah (or Christ) as we gather together in worship and in ministry activities. During this wonderful season of giving and receiving, it is my prayer and hope that each of you experience deeper than ever before the wonderful gifts of Christmas this year as we consider what it means to come together as a community of faith sent out for the sake of the world! Merry Christmas! See you in church!
+LLL

Dec. Scriptures	First Reading	Psalms	Second Reading	Gospel
Dec. 1	Jeremiah 33: 14-16	Psalms 25: 1-10	1 Thess. 3: 9-13	Luke 21: 25-36
Dec. 8	Malachi 3: 1-4	Luke 1: 68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3: 1-6
Dec. 15	Zephaniah 3: 14-20	Isaiah 12: 2-6	Philippians 4: 4-7	Luke 3: 7-18
Dec. 22	Micah 5: 2-5a	Luke 1: 46b-55	Hebrews 10: 5-10	Luke 1: 39-45 [46-55]
Dec. 29	1 Samuel 2: 18-20,26	Psalms 148	Colossians 3: 12-17	Luke 2: 41-52



Please let Pastor Lloyd 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. Please contact Pastor Lloyd directly at (920)740-2523 or Emanuel (906)942-7245.



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, but a sign lets people know there are canned items inside if the office is open, and a winter seasonal list of dry foods and personal items is now available, and thank you for this much appreciated community resource!



Our Christmas baskets will be given on **Thursday, 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, (any size and flavor) mushroom soup and canned cranberry sauce. Food donations are collected in the shopping basket in the fellowship hall. Thank you for your contributions!



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 3, 10 and 17 at 3:30 p.m.**

Bring a friend and join us!



Emanuel's Christmas Eve candlelight worship service will be **Tuesday, December 24 at 7 p.m.** All are welcome!



Join us in bringing some holiday cheer to our shut-ins! Following worship on Sunday, December 8 we will share a quick lunch and then visit the homes of at least five of our area members whose health makes it difficult for them to be at Emanuel on a regular basis. We'll sing a few songs and leave a gift of homemade goodies, just to let them know we care and that they are still an important part of the congregation.

How can you help? Let Betsy know if you would be willing to donate a dozen cookies or a loaf of homemade bread for the goodie basket or help with the lunch. And plan to add your voice to our impromptu choir. We may not make it on Broadway, but we will certainly bring a smile to our beloved members! If cancelled because of weather, make up date will be December 15.



Congratulations Roger Kimball for winning the "Michigan Quilt" made and donated by Connie Arnett Ritter! Thank you to all who bought and sold the 588 tickets as a fundraiser for an indoor accessible ramp to Emanuel's sanctuary. We truly appreciate your support for all of Emanuel's quilt raffles!



Quilting for Lutheran World Relief continues to be held through the winter months at Emanuel on Tuesdays beginning at 1PM . All are welcome with no experience needed. We are always in need of gently used sheets that are used for the tops and bottoms of the quilts. We are also always in need of sewing thread for the edges that are machine sewn and heavier cotton thread for tying the tops. If you have any questions please talk with Christie. Come and join us!



Prayer Partners is a very special program in which you make the commitment to pray for your Prayer Partner each day. As a Prayer Partner, you don't know who is praying for you; you just know that you are being uplifted in prayer. It's a truly comforting feeling knowing this. An added bonus is that you get to strengthen your own prayer life by praying for someone else.

The only thing you are asked to do is pray daily. If you would like, you can leave little cards or messages in your Prayer Partner's mailbox here at Emanuel or send one to their home. It's often the high point of the day when these thoughts and messages are received.

Forms are on the kitchen counter to fill out. If you would like to participate and would like one mailed to you, just let the office know at (906)942-7245. Prayer Partners will be chosen during fellowship following worship on Sunday, December 15.



Emanuel's **Prayer Chain** is a list of people who are prayer warriors! When there is a person or a situation that is in need of immediate prayer, the prayer chain is activated by either contacting the office, (906)942-7245 or Jolene (906)942-7484 and an email is immediately sent to the prayer chain members or a phone call if needed. Please be sure to indicate on the recent **Time and Talents for 2025** form by marking "Serving through Prayer-Prayer Chain" to help in this important part of our church, or let Jolene know that you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain at Emanuel. We are asked to return our Time and Talent form either by mailing them to Emanuel (P.O. Box 160) or returning them Sunday, December 8 as they will be blessed during worship. Thank you!

November 19 Council Meeting Highlights

~ Twenty Thanksgiving meal baskets will be given to community members in need. Donations of food items prior to shopping is appreciated along with a special offering Sunday, November 24.

~ Our November local benevolence is the Marine Corps Toy for Tots.

~ There will be caroling for Emanuel's homebound members after worship on Sunday, December 8, December 15 if inclement weather. Homemade cookies or bread will also be given.

~ The snow plowing contract was given to Travis of Every Season Property Maintenance.

~ Both the October Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports were reviewed and accepted with no outstanding bills.

~ The next council meeting is Tuesday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m.

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.*

*Paul Johnson, Bill, Mary Heath, Sally Weingartner,
Lois Kokko, Sonny Robinson, Dave.*

*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 us know when our prayer list needs updated
with names added or removed. Thank you.*

December 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1 10am Adult Forum 11am Worship	2 AA MTG 7 pm	3 Quilting 1 pm Advent Worship 3:30pm	4	5	6	7
8 10am Adult Forum 11am	9 AA MTG 7 pm	10 Quilting 1 pm Advent Worship	11	12	13	14
15 10am Adult Forum 11am Worship	16 AA MTG 7 pm	17 Quilting 1 pm Advent Worship 3:30pm Council 5:30 PM	18	19 Christ- mas Meal Baskets Given	20	21
22 10am Adult Forum 11am Worship	23 AA MTG 7 pm	24 Christmas Eve Worship 7 pm	25  <i>Happy Christmas</i>	26	27	28
29 10am Adult Forum 11am Worship	30 AA MTG 7 pm	31				

**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 11 am
Christmas Eve Worship Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 7pm.*