

Emanuel Lutheran Church
March 2021
Enlightener



*Celebrating 126 Years
of
God's Faithfulness*

Michael Holman, LLM
(231)824-6757 (cell)
holmi@1fj.com

Emanuel Lutheran Church: 906-942-7245
emanuel@tds.net www.be-Lutheran.org

Emanuel Lutheran Church of Skandia , ELCA



Visit us on
Facebook

Congregational Leadership

Michael Holman, LLM

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

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

Council Members

Sandi Ruotsi
Richard Cooke
Lois Kokko
Betsy Koski
Jane Sims
Dan Bahrman
Jolene Kokko

Committee Leaders

Sandi Ruotsi ~
Council President
Barb Bach ~ Stewardship
Sarah Kimball ~ Outreach
Betsy Koski ~ Christian Education
Jane Sims ~ Worship & Music
Roger Kimball ~ Building &
Property
Pam Bahrman ~ Cemetery
Business Manager

Christian Education

Michael Holman, LLM ~
Confirmation
Leah Kainulainen , Karen Maki ~
Sunday School
Sandi Ruotsi ~ Adult Forum

Office

Jolene Kokko ~ Office Assistant

*Emanuel Lutheran Church has both a Face Book
Page and website! Catch up on upcoming and past
events, our monthly calendar and Enlightener
newsletters and view our Sunday worship service at:*

www.be-lutheran.org

Sunday Worship is being held indoors in the sanctuary while social distancing and wearing masks beginning at 9 AM. It is also available online at ***www.be-lutheran.org*** and heard via radio station 87.9FM during the worship service in the parking lot.

Birthday Blessings

March 1—

*Johnny
Bergdahl*

March 5- Mark Shelton

March 14-Lani Yearicks

March 16-

Richard Cooke

March 20—

Karen Bahrman

March 23-Jeff Sims

March 27-Dean Wilson

March 28-

Sammi DuVall



Anniversary Blessings

March 10-

*Mark & Melissa
Krans*

Remember in Prayer ...

*Our members, family, and friends who are ill, have health concerns, are grieving, or are in need;
Richard Cooke, Cindy Shelton, Steven Winters,
Connie Ritter.*

*Our members and friends who are absent from worship and unable to attend,
prayers for Vonda Berglund.*

Our Thanks and Praise to God. If you have a prayer request for yourself or others, please let the office know by calling or by leaving a message at 942-7245.

“See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles: they will flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.” Mark 10: 33-34

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, grace and peace to you,

What a crazy year 2021 is starting out to be. A super cold spell in February has reached well into the southern most states causing much damage as most were unprepared for that kind of weather. The things that we are used to dealing with snowfall and the like, presented huge challenges especially in the state of Texas where the freezing temperatures caused a great deal of property damage leaving many without heat, electricity and water for many days. I'm guessing that many are wishing that things would get back to normal.

Getting back too normal has become “the” catch phrase during these last few months as we continue to monitor the Covid-19 pandemic. While the vaccines have been produced there have been many issues with getting it into the arms of those who are eagerly waiting for that to happen. In spite of delays and crazy methods of scheduling progress is being made, Hang in there. Amid all this anxiety and impatience though I can't help but notice how quickly the year is flying by.

It seems like we have barely begun our Lenten journey only to gaze at the calendar to see that Lent is already half gone, or as the optimists among you might say half filled. Either way I hope that you have been able to focus on the season and what it is we might be preparing for. Our texts this season have taken us on a journey, not only toward the Cross, but also toward what God has promised to do in our lives. We have been reminded of the covenants that God has made with and for us. The promise to never use water to destroy all of creation rather use water as a way of giving us new life in baptism. We hear God's promise to a well-aged couple that they shall bring forth many nations by faith they follow as we follow in the way of the cross trusting in new life. The law is handed down that we might learn how-to live-in community and when we pervert life in this community God shows us that God comes to us all freely. We hear the promise of new life found in Jesus on the cross as we look toward him for forgiveness and life as we no longer read the law but have it written on our hearts.

Enjoy these days of reflection as they pass by quickly, reveling in the Spirit poured out upon us, trusting in God's promises. Blessings to you as you also toward the Cross and new life.

Shalom,

Michael

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

The other day, right in the middle of a phone conversation, my office phone suddenly stopped working. I was incredibly irritated, and I yelled into my empty office how I felt about that phone. Several days later, I was snowshoeing, and my extendable walking pole contracted unexpectedly to about 14 inches, making it useless. Again, I found myself hurling verbal insults at an inanimate object. The snowy and peaceful silence of the wooded trail was shattered as I called my pole “stupid” and tried to forcibly manipulate it back to its appropriate length. But no matter how much I pulled and twisted and complained, it wouldn’t budge. Stupid thing.

With a vaccine being slowly rolled out, it feels like we should be in the homestretch of the pandemic. But the finish line seems to recede the closer we get. If you feel weary and irritable, with no patience for even the smallest inconvenience, you are not alone. We brace ourselves for the big things – loss and death, ongoing challenges to returning to what we miss, the need to be supportive to loved ones, but the little things...they can send us over the edge. Perhaps you too have experienced an adult temper tantrum over something that, pre-pandemic, would have been more manageable. These days, our skin is thinner and our emotions nearer the surface. Criticism that would have bounced off the armor of personal confidence now cuts deep. We have no reserve, no wherewithal, no room in a psyche already full to overflowing to cope rationally with one more thing.

In a presentation about what it takes to be resilient, I learned the number one thing was being realistic. So, let’s be realistic. This is hard. We want to be done. We want to hug and sing and gather around the family table with loved ones we haven’t had supper with in over a year.

All in good time. The day will come. We just need to wait a ... little...bit...longer. Some months at least.

So, we wait. We wait for our well to be filled, our strength to be renewed, our spirits to be refreshed. I have found that laughter helps...and play. But most of all, I have found that acknowledging the feelings of weariness, naming that I am tired of waiting, and then extending grace to myself and others, goes a long way to getting past it.

The prophet Isaiah has something to say about waiting.

*But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.*
~Isaiah 40:31

Wait with me. Wait for the Lord. Wait for new life, for forward movement, for a fainting spirit to rise up on wings. God is with you, and God is at work; creating vaccines, supporting health care workers, helping leaders think through the details, and offering all of us the promise that with God's help, our weariness will give way to new strength.

And in the meantime, find joy, in even the little things. It took two pliers, my husband, and a jar opener to get my pole back to its proper length. I'm ready for another snowshoe. If you hear someone yelling "stupid" in the woods, just ignore it.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan





Synod Assembly

May 10-15, 2021

Mark your calendars and join us for a week full of opportunities for engagement, discussion, worship, and information, all with the theme of Hope. **The Synod Assembly is open to**

all to attend virtually except the business meeting on **Saturday**, our two representatives from Emanuel will attend that session virtually. Here's a tentative overview of what to expect:

Monday, May 10

Pre-recorded Opening Worship

Tuesday, May 11

Workshops for the whole Synod

Wednesday, May 12

Workshops for the whole Synod

Thursday, May 13

Workshops for the whole Synod

Installation service livestream

Friday, May 14

Social gathering online

Saturday, May 15

Business meeting (required for voting members) **Emanuel is in need of two representatives to attend the business meeting, other sessions are optional. Please let Michael of Sandi know if you are interested. You are welcome to use the computer at Emanuel to virtually attend also.**



Congratulations to Gisele Duehring on her January retirement from Northern Michigan University. May God continue to bless you Gisele and all of your future endeavors!



Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp is offering limited camp opportunities this summer. Registration is open now for anyone interested. See their website for more information:

www.fortunelake.org

Information is also posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall at Emanuel.



The sign up for sponsoring monthly bulletins during 2021 is now available. Cost is \$30 per month. Please note if you are sponsoring bulletins in memory or in honor of others and make it aware by calling or emailing the office for now; 942-7245 or emanuel@tds.net. Thank you for helping with our worship ministry.

Digital Monthly Newsletter and Weekly Celebrates

Would you like to receive the Enlightener via email instead of the mail?

Please send an email to the office: emanuel@tds.net and request your Enlightener to be emailed. If you would like the weekly ***Celebrates*** with the readings and prayers either mailed or emailed also, just let the office know! 942-7245

2021 Worship Times at Emanuel Lutheran Church

Mar-June 9AM July-Oct 11AM Nov-Dec 9AM

February Council Highlights

~ Michael thanked everyone for their birthday greetings and everyone's continued support at Emanuel.

~Thank you letter from the Steve Mariucci Family Beacon House for the \$125 donation, the Salvation Army for the \$100 donation, thank you letter from Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp for support and donations throughout the year, thank you note for a quilt given to a community member with a donation to Emanuel's quilting group included. Our monthly local benevolence to the Gwinn Senior Center went to families with utility needs.

~Committee Reports: Outreach~ A quilt will be given to the family that had the fire in Skandia. Cemetery Board~ Met January 21, without a quorum. Bylaws were reviewed. Rules were reviewed for burials and a reminder will be sent to the local funeral homes stating " the sexton must be contacted for all burials including disbursement of ashes. "

~Our church constitution needs to be updated. We also need to look at what our vision for Emanuel is for the next 5 and 10 years. Both items will be placed on our annual meeting agenda.

~Congregation member shared a recommendation for a lift to make the sanctuary accessible. Discussion of various possibilities of how to make the sanctuary accessible with different options. We will continue to look in to all options. Encouragement for building and property committee to give input.

~In order to have a quorum at our Annual Meeting, we will look into holding it in June of 2021.

~February local benevolence is the family of fire victims in Skandia; Cindy Baker.


~Both the Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports were reviewed and found in order with no outstanding bills. \$4000 will be applied to the principle of our roof loan.

~The next council meeting is Sunday, March 21, 1p.m.

Both the February council meeting minutes and financial reports are posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

March 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Sat
	1 AA Meeting 7pm	2	3	4	5	6
7 9AM Worship	8 AA Meeting 7pm	9	10	11	12	13
14 9AM Worship	15 AA Meeting 7pm	16	17	18	19	20
21 9AM Worship Council Mtg. 1PM	22 AA Meeting 7pm	23	24	25	26	27
28 9AM Palm Sunday Worship 	29 AA Meeting 7pm	30	31			

**The March 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 a.m.,
available in the parking lot, online at
www.be-lutheran.org and inside the sanctuary,
wearing masks and socially distancing.*