

Emanuel Lutheran Church
April 2025
Enlightener



Pastor Lloyd Leo 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: (906)202-5006
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
Roger Kimball ~
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.
through June.

***2025 Worship Times at Emanuel Lutheran Church
April -June 9AM. July-October 11AM***

Birthday Blessings

April 1~Paula Jo Farmer

April 2~Carol Mattson

April 3~Dale Weingartner

April 7~

Breanna Bahrman

April 11 ~Tiffany Ridolphi

Hailey Ridolphi

April 17~Dan Rickaby

April 25~Paul Koski



Thank you Iva Arnett for sponsoring the April worship bulletins in memory of her son Markie.

Thank you for serving during worship!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Usher(s)</u>
04/06	Christie Johnson	Richard Cooke
04/13	Bety Koski	Jesse & Leah Kainulainen
04/20	Patti Bergdahl	Roger & Sarah Kimball
04/27	Jesse Kainulainen	Tom & Barb Bach

Digital Monthly Newsletter

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, let the office know at 906-942-7245 or email us an message.

The Pastor's Piece

"Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive." 1 Corinthians 15:12, 20-22

Greetings friends in Christ!

Are you as excited as I am that it is finally April and Easter is just around the corner! Well, I cannot speak for you, but from my perspective I am more than ready, as we journey further into spring, to embrace the earth's signs of new life and to let go of everything "cold and icy" that is still trying to prolong our long winter season. And I am wondering about what opportunities and directions we may find ourselves contemplating as we continue to proceed through our transitional ministries at Bethany/Negaunee and Emanuel/Skandia? What reason do we have to be excited about our life together, and why would anyone want to be a part of that future with us? And how can we share that excitement with the communities in our care? These are conversations that we will continue to explore together, but to start with we have the Good News of Christ's resurrection and what that reality means for the transformation of our lives? For example, in the fifteenth chapter of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians we find the seed that blossomed into the heart of Christianity. With these words Paul assures us that the resurrection is the belief that defines what it means to be a Christian. I think this is our "ace in the hole" card as we seek to grow our memberships. Let us ask ourselves, what does it mean for us to be Christian communities with the courage to embrace Christ's life-giving message and to share it with others who may not be aware of its transformational power. The early followers knew that it takes *courage* to believe and to share. The courage to step out and care for others, even at our own expense. And that we will never have that kind of courage if this life is the only hope we have.

Who would risk, like Paul and the other the early believers did, responding to God's invitation to live life differently, if we thought that this life is all we will ever have? How can our faith bring a fresh perspective to those who find themselves aimlessly chugging along through life's challenges one day at a time, without such a hope, but with a longing for their lives to be transformed? Well, as we encounter these final days of our Lenten preparation together, and commit ourselves to participating in the coming Holy week services, we are reminded and stand to be re-invigorated with the message that Jesus preached and that we have responded to...that God *loves* all of his creation, all of humankind, and that God wants the best for all of us-that God wants us to live in peace, free to plant a tree or whatever other bush, shrub or flower of our choice, and to live in harmony to see it grow and produce its fruit for us, our families and our friends. This is the central message of our faith and the key to our life together as congregations seeking to grow and become relevant in our communities again. This belief that death is not the end of us is what gave our ancestors the courage to cross oceans to come here and set up homes and congregations in the wilderness. It gave them the courage to dream dreams of a nation that is ruled by the will of the people, working together. It gave them the courage to see when they had entered into the sins of slavery and racism, and to attempt to reverse the effects of those sins. Not that we Christians are perfect by any means, we still fight the effects of those sins today. But it takes courage to stay focused and committed to our ministries and to share this message of new life that God has entrusted us with to bring wholeness and healing to our communities and world. And it takes courage to allow ourselves and all others to be transformed by its awesome power. So yes, I am excited about being with all of you this Easter season as we once again get to live and share the essential Christian message, that Jesus is Risen, He is Risen indeed!

See you in church, +LLL

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 **(906)202-5006** Emanuel at **(906)942-7245**.

April 2025

God will guide you
continually,
and satisfy your needs
in parched places,
and make your bones
strong;
and you shall be
like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail. ~ Isaiah 58.11



Gardeners, farmers, and growers understand nature's delicate balance and what is needed for productive growth. Too little water can be equally detrimental as too much moisture. Sunshine is good, but excess heat can be counterproductive. The whims of weather patterns are not subject to our wishes. While our own time and effort are involved in the growing process, we ultimately give thanks to God for the necessary sun, water and conditions to grow plants that offer us nourishment.

Along with seeds, a significant amount of faith is sown every spring in the hope of a successful fall harvest. There is great satisfaction when preparing and eating home-grown food, but the God who provides also asks something of us. In response to God's generosity, we share our blessing with others. In this way, we become like a watered garden or a spring of water, offering

with diligence and continuous care will yield a healthy crop. A farmer focuses their effort on the things that they can control. If you talk with a farmer, they have an endless set of concerns: too hot, too cold, not enough rain or too much rain. However, they rest in the comfort of knowing that they have done everything in their power to allow the crop to thrive.

In this passage in Corinthians, Paul is reminding the church in Corinth that he started the process. Apollos is doing all the right things in this ministry to move the process forward. He is using all the right persuasive arguments, and making the right preparations for the church. Yet, real sustainable growth for the church will be by the grace of God. In Matthew we're told that if we focus first on His kingdom and on righteousness; rewards will follow. Leaders will focus a group on things that can be influenced, managed, even controlled. God's will is not in our control, as much as we may wish it to be. We are called, like Apollos, to nurture seeds of faith, guide toward righteousness and teach of Christ's unconditional love and sacrifice. The growth that results is a gift of God: growth in faith, growth in hope, and growth in love.

Heavenly Father, Thank you for bringing us together to celebrate your example of sacrifice and leadership. Lead us, like your apostle Apollos, to nurture, guide and teach. We put our trust in you to provide us with the growth we need. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen

~by Curt Poulos, member of First, Iron River and Synod Council

From The Seed Sowers Devotions in the Northern Great Lakes Synod,
Online at www.nglsynod.org

Emanuel will be giving baskets with a complete Easter meal this season. If you know of anyone or a family in our community that is in need of one, please talk with Sarah or Pastor Lloyd. Emanuel will be using a grant from Thrivent Financial, taking a special offering Sunday, April 13, and accepting donations of canned peas, corn, cranberries and jello of any flavor or size. Thank you for your donations to this outreach project.



Quilting for Lutheran World Relief continues on Tuesdays, 1 p.m.



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!



A bid has been received for the indoor accessible ramp to the sanctuary. A congregational special meeting with information and a vote of congregational members will be held after our **Sunday, April 27th** worship. Please plan on attending this important meeting.



You are invited to contribute to the purchase of fresh flowers for the altar and sanctuary Easter Sunday, April 20. Please designate the donation as "Easter Flowers" when giving. The Altar Guild will purchase and pick up the flowers. Thank you for helping us adorn the sanctuary on Easter Day!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday ~April 13: Worship 9 a.m.

Maundy Thursday ~ April 17: Worship 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday ~ April 18: Worship 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday ~ April 20: Worship 9:00 a.m.

Raise your voice in Thanksgiving and praise to our Risen Lord!



Christ in Our Home, (April through June) a devotional resource which encourages readers to live out their faith daily with readings, scriptures and prayer, is available near the entrances of the sanctuary. If you would like one mailed to you, please let the office know.



We continue to collect Econo Receipts for the ELCA World Hunger Fund. The collection box is near the window in the north end of the fellowship hall. Thank you Christie Johnson for organizing, totaling the amount, taking them to the Econo Grocery store in Marquette and following up with the final donation to Emanuel.



The **Skandia Community Coffee Time** has started up again on Fridays beginning at 9:30 am-2pm at the Skandia Community building. All are welcome to stop by, enjoy a cup of coffee, treats with conversation and card games too!

March Council Meeting Highlights

~ It was a joy to have about 50 people from the three local churches attend the midweek Lenten service and Soup Supper at Emanuel March 12.

~Thank you note from Trillium House for the local benevolence in January.
Thank you card from the family of Jean Contois for the services given for their family and friends.

~February Financial Secretary & Treasurer's reports reviewed and found in order with no outstanding bills. Concerns expressed for lower member giving and higher utility bills this winter season.

~Easter meal baskets will be given April 17. A Thrivent Grant has been secured, special offering taken and food item donations will be accepted. Prayer Partners revealed Sunday May 4 & new prayer partners chosen.

~A bid has been received for the accessible ramp to the sanctuary. The bid and information will be brought to the church congregation for a vote after worship on Sunday, April 27.

~The next council meeting is Tuesday, April 22 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.*

*David Bahrman, Carol Wolf, Paul Johnson, Bill, Jeff,
Mary Heath, Sally Weingartner, Lois Kokko, Valerie,
Sonny Robinson, Richard Erickson*

*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*

April 2025

Pastor Lloyd: Tuesdays 10am-2pm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Sat
		1 Quilting 1 pm	2	3	4	5
6 9am Worship 10:30 Adult Forum	7 AA Mtg 7 pm	8 Quilting 1 pm	9  Hope Methodist Church 6pm	10	11	12
13 9am Worship 10:30 Adult Forum 	14 AA Mtg 7 pm	15 Quilting 1 pm	16	17 Maundy Thursday Service 7 PM	18 Good Friday Service 7 PM	19
20 9am Worship 	21 AA Mtg 7 pm	22 Quilt- ing 1 pm Council Mtg. 5:30pm	23	24	25	26
27 9am Worship 10:30 Adult Forum	28 AA Mtg 7 pm	29 Quilting 1 pm	30			
Special Congregational Meeting Indoor Ramp Bid/Vote following worship 04/27						

**The April 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