

Emanuel Lutheran Church
November 2025
Enlightener



Pastor Lloyd Leo Luedeman

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Emanuel Lutheran Church of Skandia , ELCA



Congregational Leadership

Rev. Lloyd Leo Luedeman

**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 February

***2025 Worship Times at Emanuel Lutheran Church
November-February 9 AM, March-June 11AM***

Birthdays Blessings

November 9
Roger Kimball

November 11
Nichole Reuter

November 11
Jane Sims

November 13
Tom Bach

November 15
Laurie Beauchamp

November 22
Mary Alice Smith

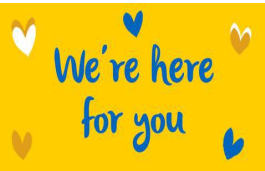
November 29
Lois Kokko



*Thank you Mary Lou Behrens for sponsoring
the November worship bulletins in honor of
her family.*

Thank you for serving during worship!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Usher(s)</u>
11/02	Barb Bach	Roger & Sarah Kimball
11/09	Sarah Kimball	Richard Cooke
11/16	Christie Johnson	Jesse & Leah Kainulainen
11/23	Betsy Koski	Roger & Sarah Kimball
11/30	Patti Bergdahl	Tom & Barb Bach


*We're here
for you*

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. Contact Pastor Lloyd directly at (906) 202-5006 or Emanuel (906)942-7245.

The Pastor's Piece for November 2024

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

Matthew 25:31-46 NRSVue

Happy harvest season everyone! As we all know, November is the month that is set apart for the celebration of the national holiday of Thanksgiving, but in the life of the church the themes which accompany it are celebrated in the life of faith every day and month of the year. Generally speaking, the celebration of Thanksgiving is set in the autumn or harvest season and many worship services around this time of year will have a harvest theme. Harvest is not something most of us typically experience unless we live in farm country. For urban and suburban folks, our food comes to us already dried or frozen. If it's fresh, it's hauled to the supermarket in refrigerated trucks. If any of us plant vegetable gardens in the summer, it's by choice. We do it not because we need to, but because we enjoy the taste of those fresh tomatoes and other vegetables. In our lives, the difference between a good harvest and a bad one is measured in dollars per pound in the produce section...not whether we eat or go hungry.

But for Jesus' disciples, and for just about everyone else in the ancient Near East, the harvest was a subject of intense personal interest. So, when Jesus tells a parable about a shepherd's harvest, as recorded in the verses from Matthew's Gospel above, the ordinary act of separating sheep from goats is something everyone, especially the Hebrews, could relate to. Even to this day, it's common for shepherds in that part of the world to raise sheep and goats together, side by side. So, when the harvest comes and it's time to shear the sheep or bring them to market, the shepherd must separate them from the goats. The shepherd stands there, staff in hand, nudging each animal one way or the other. In the verses above, when Jesus sets out to teach his followers about God's judgment at the end of time, he recalls this familiar scene-sheep go one way, goats go the other. When most of us here this passage it may hit us as a guilt-inducing story. Those who teach it that way assume it's mostly about the church and how some of us will make it into heaven and some of us won't. And so, as the old saying goes, some of us as this interpretation goes, are going to be awfully surprised when we learn which side of the barbed wire, we find ourselves on. But that's not the way the story ends up, instead Jesus deals his listeners a surprise ending-one that surely shakes their beliefs to the foundations, and in like manner challenges us in our lives of faith these days also!

This is because neither the sheep nor goats in the story recognize the Son of Man when he comes. All of them are equally clueless as they respond in like manner, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, or a stranger or naked or imprisoned?" And they receive Jesus' response that "just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." It's also interesting that the distinguishing feature between the two sets of people is not ethnic identity, perhaps as Jesus' listeners suppose. Neither sheep nor goats seem to know which group they belong to, until the shepherd sorts them. Once they find themselves in that group, they haven't the slightest idea how they got there. So, this isn't the old familiar story about how God's chosen people are destined for salvation while all others are sent another way. As is his habit, here Jesus is spinning this story in an entirely new way! The distinguishing feature in this story isn't who your ancestor's or your "group" is...no, instead it is some other criteria that only the shepherd-judge seems able to see. And finally, moments later, Jesus clues his listeners in on that distinguishing mark. It's whether or not they've lived in a caring, compassionate way. It's not ethnicity, but empathy. Not membership, but mercy. Not ancestry, but love. This was a truly world-shattering message in that day and age, and probably not a message many of Jesus' listeners, especially those from the nation of Israel, wanted to hear. They were looking to have their biases confirmed, but instead, in his way, Jesus tells them that the last judgment is not going to be as they would expect. The judge will look not at outward circumstances, but deep into the heart. Some who think they're sheep will find themselves to be goats, while others who thought they were goats will discover they're sheep after all. The bottom line was that not all Israel would be saved, and not all Gentiles would be lost.

So often then we hear this as a message of doom, addressed primarily to the faithful. It's like the medical school professor who tells her entering class each year, "Look at the student sitting on the right of you, then look at the one on the left. One of you three is not going to graduate." *Gulp!* But there's another way of hearing Jesus' story, and that is as a message of hope addressed not to an in-group of "true believers," but as encouragement, guidance, and promise to everyone in this world. Remember that the story begins, "All the nations will be gathered before him . . . , in other words, not just the people of Israel-and in our day, not just the "deeply religious" ...but "all the nations" ... *everyone!* In the end, as Jesus indicates, all people will stand before the righteous judge, and some will be found worthy and some will not. The reminder for us in this harvest season then is that our eternal outcome will have nothing to do with what groups we belong to. It will have everything to do with the people we've reached out to. It will have nothing to do with the love we've felt inside. It will have everything to do with the acts of love we've performed for the sake of others. The parable of the sheep and the goats does not rule out justification by faith, but it does hold up a truth that we are sometimes not so eager to recognize, which is that genuine faith results in good works, and this finds expression in the way that we care for one another and the world around us. I know you all as a deeply caring people, and I thank you for the many ways that you care for those around you, both through our ministries at Bethany/Negaunee and Emanuel/Skandia, and through your relationships in the larger community and world. Remember that you are the harvest...the called and the sent, the broken and the blessed, the hands and feet of God in this world. Happy Thanksgiving! See you in church! Pastor Lloyd



Donations of food & personal health items for our outside mini pantry are greatly appreciated! A list of ideas for our colder season now is available in the fellowship hall. Items can be placed on the wooden bookcase in the fellowship hall, or directly into the outdoor pantry if they will not freeze. Thank you for supporting this project!

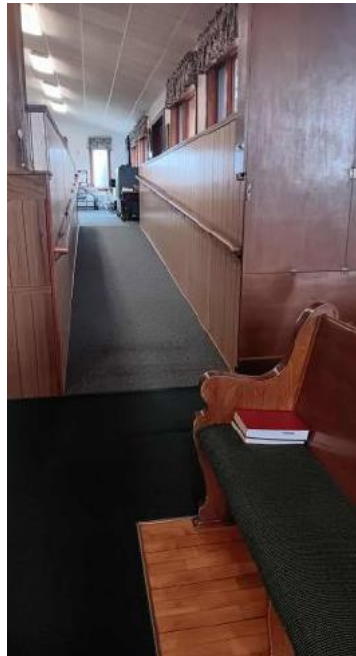


We continue to collect Econo Receipts for the ELCA World Hunger Fund. The *We Share Program* donates 1% of the total of receipts that we turn in.. The collection box is near the window in the north end of the fellowship hall. Thank you for your continued support of the World Hunger Fund!

We're Rampin' It Up!

The completion of our beautiful ramp is just one of many things we have to be grateful for at Emanuel. God has indeed blessed us, and our Stewardship Committee is focusing on how we, in turn, can be a blessing to others. You will soon be receiving a letter encouraging you to prayerfully consider how you can lend your time, talent or treasure in ONE new way to Emanuel's ministry in 2026. You will have the opportunity to dedicate that pledge during worship on December 7. We will celebrate our goals for the new year at the coffee hour/fellowship time that follows.

It all begins with prayer as we ask for God's guidance to accomplish the mission God has set before us here at Emanuel. Thanks be to God for God's abundant blessings!





"Holiday Bake Sale, Bits and Pieces"



Emanuel will be having a bake sale with other items for sale along with the raffle drawing for the quilt and other handmade items **Saturday, November 22, 10AM-1PM**. We are depending on help from our congregation by baking homemade cookies, quick breads, cakes and pies, etc. to make it a success. This will not be a bazaar as in the past but a much smaller event. Sign up to donate baked goods and help is now available! Thank you everyone!

Cemetery Digital Mapping

At the congregational meeting on October 26, approval was given to spend over \$34,000 on the digital mapping of Emanuel and Haglund Cemeteries. The money is to be borrowed from the Cemetery Operating and Cemetery Reserve Funds. It's extremely important that a repayment plan is in place. To that end, you are encouraged to make special donations to the "Digital Repayment Fund" but we ask that you please do not reduce your giving to the general fund as our expenses are already greater than our income every month.

We encourage members, especially our young people who voted for the project, to now help see that these funds are repaid in a timely manner. Fund raisers are going to be necessary, and everyone's time and talent are going to be needed. With the right attitude, these can be a time of fun and fellowship. Everyone is invited to think about how you can help with this project. If you have a suggestion for repayment, please let the Pastor or a Council member know.



You are invited to join us for our Thanksgiving Worship Service on **Tuesday, November 25 at 6 p.m.** We hope you can join us and please invite a friend too!



Thanksgiving food baskets will be given on **Monday, November 24**. If you know of any one, or of a family in our community in need of one, please talk with Sarah or Pastor Lloyd. Along with other items in the baskets for a complete Thanksgiving meal, we will collect canned green beans, canned cranberry sauce and boxes of jello (any flavor) as donations before shopping on Monday, November 25. A special offering will be taken **Sunday, November 23** during worship for the food baskets also.

Interested in Electronic Giving?

Not everyone is able to be at our worship service every Sunday, but our mission and the expenses to make ministry happen are a daily and weekly reality. One way you can help make a more consistent donation and deepen your spiritual practice of giving is through electronic donations. Emanuel uses Vanco Services, which allows you to choose to make a gift weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. It is a safe and secure method of supporting the congregation's ministry. If you are interested in finding out more about this method of giving, please contact Pastor Lloyd or Betsy Koski.

Thank you to all that helped with the fall clean up of the cemeteries and to Roger and Michelle's wonderful care throughout the past season!



October Council Meeting Highlights

~Thank you note from the Marquette County Habitat for Humanity for the lunch Emanuel provided in September for the building crew.

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

~Thanksgiving worship service will be held Tuesday, November 25 at 6 p.m.

~Emanuel sent out 22 quilts and 45 school bags to Lutheran World Relief.

~Leftover proceeds from our "Plants, Pies and Summer Buys 2025" after the purchase of the 2 stove/oven units for the kitchen, will go into the furnace fund.

~A letter to the congregation regarding stewardship will be sent soon.

~The first pew at bottom of the ramp was shortened by 30" by Roger & Richard. The ramp into the sanctuary was finished. Shelves were built in by Roger for storage in the basement rooms where the ramp construction is now.

~The Cemetery Board is hoping to expand the cemetery. The digital mapping information will be kept in the cloud rather than on paper.

~The 2025 congregational membership list was reviewed and approved.

~Leah reported \$314 was donated from Emanuel for the 2025 Crop Walk.

~The Local Benevolence for October will be sent to the Skandia/West Branch Fire Department.

~A snow plow bid was received for one year and will be asked if they would consider it to be a two year contract.

~Next council meeting is Tuesday, November 18 at 5:30 p.m.

At the October 26th congregational meeting two items were presented for approval. The first was a proposal for a streamlined mission statement that is more simplified and concise. The revised statement was accepted. The second item was to accept the bid from Tri-Media for digitally mapping our two cemeteries and setting up websites for each. After much impassioned debate the proposal was passed with a secret ballot. We hope to get the mapping started this autumn. Any donations for this project will be greatly appreciated.

Richard Cooke, Council President

November 2025

Pastor Lloyd~Tuesdays, 10am-2pm Jolene ~Fridays, 2-5pm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thu	Frid	Sat
						1
2 Worship 9AM Adult Forum 10:30AM	3 AA Meeting 7 PM	4 Quilting 1PM	5	6	7	8
9 Worship 9 AM Adult Forum 10:30AM	10 AA Meeting 7 PM	11 Quilting 1PM	12	13	14	15
16 Worship 9 AM Adult Forum 10:30AM	17 AA Meeting 7 PM	18 Quilting 1PM Council 5:30 PM	19	20	21	22  Holiday Bake Sale, Bits & Pieces 10am- 1pm
23 Worship 9 AM Adult Forum 10:30AM	24 AA Meeting 7 PM	25 Quilting 1PM 6PM 	26	27	28	29 
30 Worship 9 AM Adult Forum 10:30AM						



The November Enlightener
Emanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA
P.O. Box 160
Skandia, MI 49885

*Emanuel is rich in heritage,
Spreading the Word of God through service,
education and fellowship as we break bread
together in the company of Christ.*

*Join Us for our Sunday Services at 9AM
Thanksgiving Worship Tuesday, Nov. 25 6PM*