

Emanuel Lutheran Church
December 2025
Enlightener



Pastor Lloyd Leo Luedeman

(906)202-5006

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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 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
December -February 9 AM, March-June 11AM***

Birthday Blessings

December 1
Jesse Kainulainen

December 2
Sue Ridolphi

December 9
Andy Bahrman

December 11
Jordan (Berglund) Ledy

December 14
Iva Arnett

December 27
Gisele Duehring

December 29
Debbie Smith



Thank you for serving during worship!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Usher(s)</u>
12/07	Barb Bach	Jesse & Leah Kainulainen
12/14	Jesse Kainulainen	Roger & Sarah Kimball
12/21	Barb Bach	Richard Cooke
12/28	Betsy Koski	Roger & Sarah Kimball

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 December 2025

“The angel said to them, ‘do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.’” Luke 2:10-11

There is an old story about a congregation long ago who went over to a nearby river where they did their baptizing. One early December Sunday they had several persons who were to be baptized. In this hardy group there was one man who had some reservations about all this as he faced the icy-cold water. He was a new convert and all this baptism stuff was unfamiliar to him, therefore he was last in line. He noticed that when the first person came up out of the water, she quoted a bible verse, shouting *“Psalm 103:2-Bless the Lord, O my soul!”* Next a man was baptized, and he called out, *“Psalm 23:1-The Lord is my shepherd!”* Then another man took his turn crying out, *“Philippians 4:13-I can do all things through Christ!”* Suddenly, it was his turn. He went under the water and came back up gasping for air. No verse came to mind for him to quote, so he looked around and shouted joyfully to the crowd, *“Merry Christmas everyone!”*

These days we do not have to wait around for someone to shout out the news for us. Every type of social media these days offers more than enough headlines to get our attention. It's interesting though how authors use “headlines” to get people's attention. In a headline, big, bold letters and just a few words announce the news of something important that is happening. Sometimes headlines announce good news, like a story that a lost child was found or that a certain sports team won a big game. Very often the headlines announce sad news, such as a storm or disaster in which people are hurt. The angel who told the shepherds that Jesus was born did not have a newspaper or a computer, but that angel did have good news, the most wonderful news. The angel said:

“Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

That night those shepherds standing watch over their flock heard some good news from the angel’s headline! Then about thirty-three years later, very early on a Sunday morning, another angel announced more good news. The news wasn’t announced to shepherds this time but to a few women who had come to find the tomb where Jesus

was buried. Jesus had died on the cross, but the women found his grave empty! The angel told them the good news in the form of this headline: *He has been raised; he is not here” (Mark 16:6).* That is the best news of all, because the Savior born in Bethlehem, who’s coming and birth we will celebrate this month, died and rose from the dead so that through faith in this gift of grace we are made righteous in God’s sight and given the gift of eternal life with God. That’s the good news that we too can share with other people this holiday season! That’s the good news that we can celebrate together as a family of faith in worship. And that is our **HEADLINE** to share with others every day, just like the angels did on that first Christmas Eve so long ago – *“To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” Luke 2:11* What wonderful news! Merry Christmas everyone! +LLL

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill and Jeff Keane



“Then the three wise men came to baby-sit Jesus so Mary and Joseph could finish Christmas shopping.”





Our Christmas baskets will be given on **Thursday, December 18**. Along with the help of grants from Thrivent Financial, a **special offering on Sunday, December 14** and your donations of food items this is a much appreciated outreach event! This holiday, food donations include canned green beans, canned corn, 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.



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!



Our weekly Advent services are **Tuesdays, December 2, 9 and 16 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!



*"Happy 80th Birthday Roger
and a **big** thank you for **all** you do
for Emanuel!"*



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.



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. Our latest prayer partners will be revealed and new ones chosen during fellowship following worship on **Sunday, December 14.**



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 or text is sent to the prayer chain members or a phone call if needed. Please be sure to indicate on the recent **Time and Talents for 2026** 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 7 as they will be blessed during worship. Thank you!



Thank you all for the support of our “Holiday Bake Sale~ Bits & Pieces!” Many people donated their time and talents by making bake sale items and soup, creating crafts, quilts, selling raffle tickets and gave much time with PR, setting up, working during the event and cleaning up afterwards! The proceeds of \$4,643 included the raffle sales of 473 tickets, and a free will offering for soup and bread! All proceeds went to the Digital Mapping Fund of Emanuel & Haglund Cemeteries.

Raffle Winners

“Cottage Braid” Quilt by Connie Arnett Ritter ~ Sherry Johnson
Cardinal Quilt made by Emanuel’s Quilting Ladies~Melissa Hill
Wool Applique by Sarah Kimball ~ Carol Wolf
Beaded Necklace & Earring by Christie Johnson ~ Melissa Krans
Lighthouse Photos donated by Carol Mattson ~ Sherry Johnson
Framed Fish Print donated by Sherry Robinson ~ Robert Sims
Yoopers Basket by Melissa Krans ~ Sherry Robinson
Fresh Holiday Wreath~ Jean Shaw

Skandia Community Center Happenings

Chair Exercise Classes ~ Mondays at 9 a.m. & Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Christmas Parade with Santa, Hot Chocolate and Goodies
Friday, Dec. 19 beginning at 7 p.m.

Free Community Christmas Meal at the Skandia Community Center
Thursday, December 25, 12 N-4 p.m.



With our winter season here, if inclement weather causes our Sunday Worship services to be cancelled we will have a message stating the cancellation at **906-942-7245 and posted 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 the conditions improve.

November Council Meeting Highlights

~Thank you note form **Keep Kids Warm** for the benevolence received and the **Marquette Women's Center** for the benevolence support.

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

~Pastor Lloyd will be on vacation the last two weeks of December with Pastor Sharolyn Swenson, Assistant to the Bishop, DEM, leading worship December 21 and Pastor Lauri Maki leading worship December 28. Pastor Lloyd will lead the Christmas Eve Worship service.

~Thanksgiving and Advent Worship services are set; Tuesday, Nov. 25, 6 p.m. and Tuesdays, Dec. 2, 9, 26 at 3:30p.m.

~Twenty Thanksgiving meal baskets will be given out this year.

~Stewardship letters to the congregation will be sent out with a Time and Talent survey and pledge cards for 2026. A December 7 blessing of both will be held during Sunday's worship service.

~The basement shelves are up in the classrooms now, after the completion of the ramp.

~A new protocol for the annual snowplowing bid will be used in 2026.

~Pam Bahrman reported on the progress of the digital mapping of the cemeteries. TriMedia has completed the ground radar placing temporary flags up after their findings.

~Current weather cancellation of Sunday worship service include having Emanuel's outgoing message reflect the cancellation, WLUC TV6 will post the cancellation, Emanuel's Facebook Page will reflect the cancellation. The council president along with the pastor will make the decision then notify Jolene to post the cancellation information.

~Local benevolence for November is for the Toys for Tots, the December benevolence is to the free **Skandia Community Christmas Dinner** held at the Skandia Township Community Building, Thursday, December 25, 12N-4 p.m.

~Next council meeting is Tuesday, December 16 at 5:30 p.m.

December 2025

Pastor Lloyd~ Tuesdays, 10am-2 pm

Jolene ~Fridays, 2-5 pm



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 AA MTG 7 pm	2 Quilting 1 pm Advent 3:30 pm	3	4	5	6
7 Worship 9am Adult Forum 10:30am	8 AA MTG 7 pm	9 Quilting 1 pm Advent 3:30 pm	10	11	12	13
14 Worship 9am Adult Forum 10:30am	15 AA MTG 7 pm	16 Quilt- ing 1 pm Advent 3:30 pm Council 5:30pm	17	18 Christ- mas Food Baskets	19	20
21 Worship 9am Adult Forum 10:30am	22 AA MTG 7 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 7 pm	25 	26	27
28 Worship 9am	29 AA MTG 7 pm	30	31			

The December 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
Midweek Advent Worship~ Tuesdays Dec. 2, 9 & 16, 3:30 PM
Christmas Eve Worship Wednesday, December 24, 7 PM*