

Emanuel Lutheran Church
January 2026
Enlightener



Pastor Lloyd Leo Luedeman

(906)202-5006

pastorlloydll@gmail.com

Emanuel Lutheran Church: 906-942-7245

emanuel@tds.net www.be-lutheran.org

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

***2026 Worship Times at Emanuel Lutheran Church
January -February 9 AM, March-June 11AM***

Birthdays Blessings

January 1—Mark Arnett

*January 8—
Christie Johnson*

January 12—Angie Kremer

January 13—Judy Berglund

*January 30—
Melody Tremble*



*Thank you Lois Kokko for sponsoring the
January worship bulletins
in memory of Sylvia Wiseman.*

Thank you for serving during worship!

Date

01/04

01/11

01/18

01/25

Lector

Christie Johnson

Betsy Koski

Patti Bergdahl

Jesse Kainulainen

Usher(s)

Richard Cooke

Jesse & Leah Kainulainen

Roger & Sarah Kimball

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 January 2026

"In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through The gospel."

Ephesians 3:5-6

Happy New Year! I trust that you had a most meaningful Christmas holiday and are now ready for something new to come along. As people of faith this new thing comes to us in the season of Epiphany! Epiphany literally means "manifestation," or in general an "appearance of the Divine." For those who do not know, Epiphany begins on January 6th when we remember the three magi's journey to visit the Christ child. This season of the church year is significant in our lives of faith because during this time we acknowledge that the Good News of Jesus Christ as Savior is made known to the entire world. The season of Epiphany connects the seasons of Christmas and Lent together as we think about and reflect on how Jesus made God real to us by coming and living with people just like you and me. Before the coming of Jesus at Christmas people knew God as a Spirit who created and cared for the world, and now through Jesus we learn much more about God, especially that God loves us as his own children. It wasn't always easy to know Jesus as our Lord and Savior. For a long time, people thought that the only way you could be a follower of Jesus was to become a Jew like Jesus. Even though Jesus said that his Father sent him to all humans, there were many people who thought that only Jews could be Christians. For some years after



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Jesus was resurrected, many of the apostles and other followers of Jesus said you had to be a Jew first if you were going to be a follower of Jesus. In fact, there were all kinds of rules of what you had to do and how you had to do it before you could be considered a disciple, or follower, or even a believer. In the process of his own spiritual growth and teaching, the apostle Paul, who founded many of the first churches did not believe that there should be those kinds of rules. After his own faith was transformed by the Risen Christ Paul began teaching and preaching that everyone who simply believed in Jesus was a follower, or a disciple, that a person did not need to become Jewish first. This wasn't always a popular concept and the other apostles and leaders of the early church had a lot of conversations about this, however in time, Paul's teachings became the way of the church. That is why people like you and me are followers of Jesus today. We are not Jews, but we are Christians. This was a new revelation to the people of Jesus' day, and it can come as a new revelation to us these days also...that different kinds of people, from all the various places of the earth, can be included and part of the same religion. And so with this in mind, with all the many ways folks are trying to keep people apart in faith these days, I invite you in this New Year to consider and reflect upon how different kinds of people can both be followers of the same Jesus Christ, and maybe you can think of someone you know who might like to visit one of our services with you? It truly is one of God's great mysteries which has been made known more clearly to us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. May this New Year bring you many new understandings or "epiphanies" of God's love for you and yours throughout the course of your life, work, and play! Our God is a God full of surprising new things. May you be blessed with a new experience of Christ's presence in the days ahead. See you in church, +LLL



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.



Joyful Reflection

The new year offers the perfect opportunity to take a fresh look at our response to the blessings God has enriched our lives with. One of the goals of stewardship is to help us reflect on God's goodness to us and discover ways we can use the gifts God has given us to further God's mission. And the end result of that reflection is joy! Stewardship is a joy-filled response to a loving and generous God.

Everyone goes through seasons in life that challenge us. But even in those seasons, we are blessed by God walking with us, offering strength and comfort.

As we enter 2026, the Stewardship Committee invites you to deliberately reflect each day on where you have seen God's blessings and let the joy that fills your heart inspire you to generosity of time, abilities, and treasure for God's work at Emanuel. We invite you to share your thoughts in the Enlightener. Please visit with Pastor Lloyd, Barb Bach, or Betsy Koski if you would like to share your story of joy-filled stewardship. Thank you!



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!



The sign up sheet for sponsorship of our weekly bulletins including the Celebrates used each Sunday is at the entryway to the sanctuary from the fellowship hall. Please note if you would like to sponsor the monthly bulletins in honor or in memory of someone. Thank you .



Your 2025 Giving Statements along with new offering envelopes are in your mailboxes at Emanuel. Thank you financial secretary Jane Sims for all of the work you do keeping our financial records in order at Emanuel!



Adult forum is our Sunday morning adult education series led by Betsy Koski. ***All are welcome*** following fellowship. Join us, enjoy a cup of coffee and learn more by reading and discussing the Bible together!

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.



Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be **Sunday, January 25** following our Sunday worship with a potluck brunch. If you are a committee chair person please have your yearly report to the office by Sunday, January 11 as Emanuel's 2025 Annual Report will be given to our members January 18.

Skandia Community Center Happenings

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

Senior Lunches –Mondays 11 a.m.

Community Coffee– Fridays 9:30 a.m.



The ***Souper Bowl of Caring*** began in 1990 with a simple prayer said by Reverend Brad Smith at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina: "Lord, even as we enjoy the **Super Bowl** football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a **bowl** of soup to eat." Each year Emanuel takes part in this annual event. **Sunday, February 8** bring a can of soup, or a dry mix for our winter supplies in the outdoor food pantry and cash donations will go towards the ELCA World Hunger Fund. Thank you for your support.



Prayer Shawl
Ministry

We have many beautiful hand made Prayer Shawls available for those in need. Prayer shawls are given to those who are experiencing a difficult time, are in need of comfort and healing, to let them know they are not alone and to provide them with a sense of God's peace and healing. Please let the office know if you would like one, or know of someone in need of a prayer shawl.

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

by Howard Thurman

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.*

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, Jeff, Mary Heath, Sally Weingartner,
Sonny Robinson, Theresa, Sue, Christie Johnson,
Sarah Kimball, the Family of Jean Krans.*

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 to be updated with names added or removed. Thank you.

December Council Meeting Highlights

- ~ The Midweek Adent services this year were appreciated along with Pastor Lloyd's Sunday Children's Sermons.
- ~The church received a thank you note from Toys for Tots for the benevolence received and a thank you from a recipient of a Thanksgiving meal basket.
- ~Both the Financial Secretary and Treasurer November reports were reviewed and accepted.
- ~Pastor Lloyd will be on vacation the last two weeks of December with Pastor Sharolyn Swenson and Pastor Lauri Maki leading worship on those Sundays and Pastor Lloyd leading worship Christmas Eve.
- ~ New members Mark Brink and Carol Foress were accepted in to Emanuel's congregation.
- ~ The Ministry Site Profile was completed, reviewed and accepted.
- ~Special music will be performed by Thomas Yearicks during the Christmas Eve worship service.
- ~ Twenty Thanksgiving meal baskets were given this year.
- ~The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following the Sunday, January 25 worship service. Committee reports are due January 11. One seat is available on the council as Richard Cooke has served two 3 year terms. Barb Bach, Christie Johnson and Ronda Barr on the nominating committee for the 2026 council.
- ~ The Local Benevolence for January is the Pigs-N-Heat Fire Relief Fund.
- ~The next Council Meeting is Tuesday, February 17 at 5:30 p.m.
- ~Complete December Council Meeting minutes along with the financial reports are posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

January 2026

Pastor Lloyd~ Tuesdays 10am-2pm

Jolene~ Fridays~ 1:30-5:30pm



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Worship 9am Adult Forum 10:30am	5 AA Meeting 7pm	6	7	8	9	10
11 Worship 9am Adult Forum 10:30am	12 AA Meeting 7pm	13	14	15	16	17
18 Worship 9am Adult Forum 10:30am	19 AA Meeting 7pm	20	21	22	23	24
25 Wor- ship 9am Annual MTG/ Potluck following worship	26 AA Meeting 7pm	27	28	29	30	31

**The January 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