

Emanuel Lutheran Church
February 2026
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
Patti Bergdahl
Christie Johnson
Leah Kainulainen
Sarah Kimball
Mark Krans
Dale Weingartner

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



Wednesday, February 18, 3PM

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

Birthday Blessings

February 7—Carol Wolf

*February 9 -
Sally Weingartner*

February 10-Jacob Mackey

February 14-Betsy Koski

February 15-Jon Berglund

February 19-David Ridolphi

February 23-Sandi Ruotsi

February 25-Nina Ingalls

February 25-Cindy Shelton

February 28-Patti Bergdahl



Anniversary Blessings

*February 4-
Dan & Pam Bahrman*



*Thank you Carol Wolf for sponsoring the
February worship bulletins
in honor of her family.*

Thank you for serving during worship!

Date

Lector

Usher(s)

02/01

Barb Bach

Roger & Sarah Kimball

02/08

Sarah Kimball

Richard Cooke

02/15

Christie Johnson

Jesse & Lelah Kainulainen

02/22

Betsy Koski

Roger & Sarah Kimball

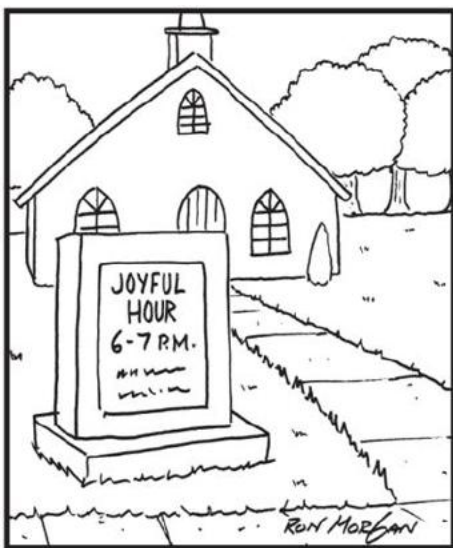
Please let Pastor Lloyd or the church office know if you or a family member is hospitalized, ill, homebound or in need of help. We want to be sure to be here for you, with support, prayers and visits. If you can't notify Emanuel, please ask a family member to do so. Please contact Pastor Lloyd directly at **(906)202-5006**, Emanuel is **(906)942-7245**.

The Pastor's Piece for February 2026

“And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here...’” Matthew 17:2-4

I can't begin to list the number of times I have attended a retreat somewhere off in a secluded spot and heard someone comment at the end that, “this was a mountaintop experience!” When someone says this, it usually means that the time spent together was time well spent -that it was a time of reflection and inspiration and motivation, and as a result they felt nourished by the content and the companionship of the retreat, as well as experiencing the presence of God in some meaningful way! So, like in this case, “mountain top” experiences are a blessing! The trouble with these “mountain top” experiences is that they seem to occur only once in a while-they do not seem to happen enough! Most people who participate in these types of retreats realize our human need for more regular spiritual nourishment even as we find ourselves driving down the country lane, heading back to the trials and tribulations of life, work and family waiting for us at the bottom of the mountain. People who lived in biblical times must have had the same longings. They surely experienced the absence of God and the trials of life every bit as much as we do these days. The good news is that for us modern disciples the opportunities for such “mountain top” experiences are many indeed, even when we are standing on level ground, we just need to make ourselves available in the places and times when they have the best probability of occurring. And so, in this chilly month of February we again are reminded of the power of such experiences as we celebrate Jesus' Transfiguration together in worship on Sunday, February 15th. This day would be a great opportunity to invite a friend to accompany you to worship, just as Jesus invited Peter, James and John to accompany him up the mountain where he was transfigured. In his second letter,

the Apostle Peter writes: *“For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.”* (2 Peter 1:16-18). Here Peter calls the mountain, “the holy mountain.” One which stands out above all others because it served as the spot where God announced the identity of Jesus as he shone brightly in all of his glory. Having climbed many beautiful mountains myself, in our time living in Colorado, I feel no special need now to repeat the experience. The spiritual occasion of “mountain climbing” for me these days occurs over and over again as I join together with all of you in our community worship experiences. As we gather together for worship, I become aware that our gathering is an invitation for us to come into the presence of God in a particular way. Gathered there together we hear proclaimed in lessons, hymns, psalms, and the sermon and prayers, the expression of God’s love and will for our lives. In worship we can regularly join in the “mountain top” party that those early disciples experienced with Jesus as we receive the bread and the wine as a foretaste of the eternal feast to come. There we also hear about the identity of Jesus and the meaning of his life, death, and resurrection for our lives today. So, we do not need to climb mountains to experience our Lord’s grace and glory. We can have a “mountaintop experience” every time we worship together for a joyful hour and come to realize for ourselves that it is always good to be in touch with God and receive some of the flavor of Transfiguration in our community. May God’s grace, mercy and peace be with you! See you in church!



+LLL



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!



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!



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 ***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.

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.

Skandia Community Center Happenings

**Free Chair Exercise Classes ~ Mondays at 9 a.m. also held on
Wednesdays & Fridays at 10 a.m.
Senior Lunches –Mondays 11 a.m.**



Skandia Lions Winter Carnival to Fight Hunger

Saturday, February 7 , 10am-3pm

Maple Lane Archery 7 Ski Center 124 Kreiger Drive
\$5 donation gives all day access to Maple Lane ski trails, sledding hills and snowshoeing.

All proceeds will support local food pantries.



We are collecting clothing items for the Gwinn Elementary Schools this winter; new or gently used sweat pants, underwear and socks (girls & boys all sizes) and snow pants (sizes med & large). Items can be placed in the shopping cart in the fellowship hall.

Talk with Sarah if you have any questions and thank you for helping with this community outreach project!



Quilting for Lutheran World Relief is back beginning Tuesday, February 3, 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 Chris-

tie. Come and join us for a great time of fellowship while meeting the need for this worldwide outreach project!

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 John "Jack" Berglund.

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.

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all...

~Galatians 6: 9-10a

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

No doubt you have heard some or much of what is happening in Minnesota. And perhaps you have drawn some conclusions about who is to blame for the deaths of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. I write this in an effort to help you understand why Minnesotans are protesting the actions of ICE. It has been said that if you want to understand another person's story, walk a mile in their shoes. Walk with me for just this little bit as together we imagine the story of another.

Imagine... that your church musician has been seeking asylum through the legal immigration process, but one Sunday morning, is detained in the church parking lot and never shows up for worship. You don't know where they have been taken.

Imagine... that your next-door neighbor, whom you meet regularly for chats over the fence, and who has completed all the steps for legal immigration and is awaiting their green card, is taken away one frosty morning, and not even given the time to put on a winter coat.

Imagine...that your child or grandchild comes home from school one day in tears because their best friend isn't coming to school anymore. You call that friend's mom and find out that the family is staying inside, afraid to go to school, or go grocery shopping, or go to doctor appointments. They are legal immigrants but are living in fear.

This is what has been happening. My information is not from any news broadcast that some might dismiss as being skewed or biased but from people I know - clergy and friends who have shared their stories. This is why Minnesota neighbors are doing what they can to document and hold accountable the instances where law enforcement is not following the law. On Friday January 23, some 50,000 people marched in peaceful protest objecting to the chaos. The detentions have not been limited to dangerous or convicted criminals, or even the undocumented. And this is what has sparked a concerted pushback.

It is heartbreaking and concerning. It would be easier if we all agreed about what we were hearing and seeing. It would be easier, and far more comfortable, if we agreed on the causes and solutions. In the absence of that common ground, I encourage you to stay in relationship with each other. Invest in the ministry of your community of faith. Be in conversation and hear what each other has to say about these things; not with the objective to change minds, but to offer and receive insights and points of view from another's perspective.

Do not give up on each other, so that together, we can work for the good of all. Peace be with you, Bishop Katherine Finegan

Annual Congregational Meeting Highlights Sunday, January 25

~ Twenty-two voting members present as Council Vice President Sarah Kimball called the meeting to order.

~Pastor Lloyd thanked the congregation for a wonderful year of Ministry. The Congregation will need to continue to work on growing the Congregation numbers in the future. Two new members; Carol Foress and Mark Brink were welcomed this year. Winter office hours are revised as cold weather results in a cold office, Pastor will work from home on those days and available by phone for appointments and visits. The Council/Call Committee has completed and submitted the Ministry Profile paperwork to the Synod to be used in the future when calling a new pastor.

~ Emanuel continues to be a busy church throughout the year, as the reviews of the Christian Education, Worship and Music, Outreach, Stewardship and Cemetery Board committee reports were shared.

~The Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports were reviewed. The Audit Committee found no concerns and thanked Jane and Betsy for doing an outstanding job. Records are well organized and documents easily found.

~The 2026 Budget was reviewed line by line and adopted.

~The following people were recommended and willing to accept the vacancies on the Council: Mark Krans, Dale Weingartner, Barb Bach, Christie Johnson.

~Thank you to the following people for representing Emanuel at the Synod Assembly : Gisele Duehring & Sarah Kimball, Extra Synod Conference 8 Delegates: Jane Sims, Ronda Barr. Nominating Committee: Sarah Kimball, Jolene Kokko and one more needed, Auditing Committee: Sandi Ruotsi, Pam Bahrman, Patti Bergdahl and Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Annual Meeting Representatives; Sarah Kimball and Jane Sims.

Thank you all for attending the Annual Meeting and for contributing to the delicious potluck brunch beforehand!



Jolene~ Fridays 2-5pm & Sat. PM

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 9 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m.	2 AA Meeting 7 p.m.	3 Quilting 1 –3 p.m.	4	5	6	7
8 Worship 9 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m.	9 AA Meeting 7 p.m.	10 Quilting 1 –3 p.m.	11	12	13	14
15 Worship 9 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m.	16 AA Meeting 7 p.m.	17 Quilting 1 –3 p.m. Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.	18  Service 3 p.m.	19	20	21
22 Worship 9 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m.	23 AA Meeting 7 p.m.	24 Quilting 1 –3 p.m.	25	26	27	28
Emanuel's Lenten Soup Supper Wednesday, March 4, 6 pm						

The February 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