

Emanuel Lutheran Church
April 2026
Enlightener



Pastor Lloyd Leo Luedeman

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Emanuel Lutheran Church of Skandia , ELCA



Visit us on
Facebook

Congregational Leadership

Rev. Lloyd Leo Luedeman

**Cell: (906)202-5006
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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



Sunday Worship begins at 11 a.m.
through June.

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

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 25~ Paul Koski



*Thank you Dale Weingartner for
sponsoring the April worship bulletins
in honor of all church families.*

Thank you for serving during worship!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Usher(s)</u>
04/05	Christie Johnson	Richard Cooke
04/12	Betsy Koski	Jesse & Lelah Kainulainen
04/19	Patti Bergdahl	Roger & Sarah Kimball
04/26	Jesse Kainulainen	Needed

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 April 2026

"Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?'"
Luke 24:13-16 and 30-32

It happened that on that first Easter day, as two followers of Jesus were walking down the road to Emmaus, a little village outside of Jerusalem. They were going home in defeat, shame and disappointment. It was late in the evening and the sinking sun reminded them of the sinking feeling they had on the inside, sort of like the feeling I get when I see the snow continuing to fall in the spring! But then, as they walked along, a stranger joined them and he asked what they had been discussing. They replied that they were talking about Jesus of Nazareth, a mighty prophet and how he had been put to death, adding, how they "had hoped he was the one to redeem Israel" (Lk 24:21). They went on to relate how they had heard some of the women of their group had found Jesus' tomb empty, and that others had gone to the tomb, but did not see the body of Jesus there. At this point the stranger says, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory" (Lk 24:25-26)? What glory you may ask! The glory of Easter, the glory of our Christian faith, the eternal glory that we will share in one day! This glory is the defeat of death and darkness; it is the reason we gather together on Easter Sunday to celebrate the good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ! On that first Easter, the resurrection changed everything for those early followers and it has the power to do the same for us. From that moment on, all those who followed Jesus lived in the power of his resurrection and a transformation took place in their mindsets and ways of living, just as it can also do for us!

How? As a result of our baptism into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, death does not hold the same dark power over us anymore. Sin and death and darkness no longer have the last word. We can live now in the bright light of God's love, in the dawn of a new day, and we can choose to have a different mindset and approach to our relationships and lives because of this transforming reality. Like shedding off old, dirty, and worn-out clothes from our bodies and putting on new, perfectly fitting, comfortable and indestructible ones, our lives will one day be transformed into the glory of our Lord and we will live together in God's presence forever. And so, now as we gather together this year to once again celebrate Easter and the promises God has made to us as a result of Jesus' obedient death on the cross and subsequent resurrection, let us be reminded and encouraged that the resurrection of Christ is more than something we merely believe. It is a conviction which takes hold of us, which renews and empowers us, to live this temporary life as best we can, because we know what comes after it. After the risen Christ had revealed himself to those two followers on the Emmaus Road, they knew they had been in his very presence. Their minds were gripped by that conviction and that conviction inspired their sharing and gathering with one another from that day forward. The challenge for us these days is for us to realize the same thing now. The resurrection was a story they had to tell, a conviction they had to announce, a witness they had to share. And so, as we go forward together into this Easter season and beyond, may our eyes be more fully opened and aware of God's presence with us as we share the bread and the wine together as a family of faith and continue to work out our faith in the good things we have to offer our community and world. If we can do this, let's not be surprised then, as those early followers found out, that suddenly everything can be different and nothing may ever be the same again. I wonder what story God is getting ready to write with our lives and ministry this year? And I'm excited to find out with all of you!

He is Risen. He is Risen indeed! +LLL



From the Treasurer

“God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

As Christians, we are called to trust in God to provide for all our needs (not necessarily all our wants), and that by doing so, we can “share abundantly in every good work.” The members of our congregation have the opportunity now to share in the work of both ongoing and upcoming projects. Last fall, members voted to take on a \$34,000 cemetery mapping project. To date, \$7,634 has been raised for this project. At our Annual Meeting, we learned that a new church furnace is needed in the very near future. To date, \$4,245 has been given toward the purchase.

We cannot simply rely on fund-raisers to support these projects. Your special gifts, in addition to your general fund offering, are needed. Please prayerfully consider adding a regular special gift to your monthly giving as you are able for one or both of these projects.

Our giving flows from love – first the love God has shown us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus our Savior. Then the love we have for God’s church, that others may know of God’s love. Working together, with our trust placed in God not money, we can share the responsibility of completing these projects to the glory of God.

Betsy Koski, Treasurer



A sign up sheet is on the kitchen counter for bringing treats for fellowship following our Sunday worship service. Coffee is available and usually half & half. If you need help setting up or cleaning up afterwards, there is help! Goodies do not need to be elaborate, just something to enjoy along with a cup of coffee and good fellowship! Thank you !

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.



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.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday ~ March 29, Worship 11 a.m.

Maundy Thursday ~ April 2 , Worship 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday ~ April 3, Worship 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday ~ April 5 , Worship 11:00 a.m.

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

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.**



We are planning to have our annual ***“Plants, Pies and Summer Buys”*** on **Saturday, May 30**, 9am-1pm. **To make this a**

successful, community event, we need your help! Our sale will have plants; soon will be the time to divide your house plants, dig up perennials soon, and any other veggie or flowers you plan to start! We will be selling pies, so your donations of delicious pies the day of the sale are deeply appreciated! We will have summer buys to include gently used gardening tools & equipment: planters, pots, outdoor summer gardening books, outdoor ornamental décor, seeds you may have collected, vases, etc. Just be aware, if items you donate do not sell, you need to take them home the following day or soon after. We will also be selling our quilts and any crafts, so please consider donating or making crafts! We hope to have our annual quilt raffle available with additional handcrafted prizes, with the drawing in November. Be aware, we are not selling rummage, just items that are related to our event! If you have any handcrafted items to include on the raffle with a value of at least \$25, please let us know soon as raffle tickets will be printed for the May 30 event. Thank you for all of your help!



Quilting for Lutheran World Relief meets on Tuesdays at Emanuel 1-3 pm. 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 for a great time of fellowship while meeting the need for this worldwide outreach project!

Lifting Up to God in Prayer

We commend to the grace and mercy of God and pray for the breaking of God's reign:

- For the healing of the nations, and peace for all, especially for Iran, Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, Russia, Mexico, the United States.
- For those gathered in assembly, worship teams, musicians, choir members, Altar Guild, ushers, Assisting Ministers, Synod Authorized Ministers, Deacons, and Pastors, as they are moved in wonder and joy as they bear witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Christ in these coming holy days.
- For our congregations participating in the Transition Cohort, that they find meaningful engagement and missional clarity as they approach their time of learning at Fortune Lake.
- For our immigrant neighbors: for safety and friendship, for security and hope.
- For our neighbors all around the Upper Peninsula, Wisconsin, and the whole Midwest digging out of days of blizzard. We pray especially for safety for first responders, road crews, and folks digging out of driveways and paths.

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, Bob Johnson, Eric Johnson., Tom Bach*

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.

March 1, 2026 Council Meeting Highlights

~Nominations and Elections of Council Officers

1. President Sarah Kimball
2. Vice President Leah Kainulainen
3. Secretary Christie Johnson
4. Treasurer Betsy Koski

~Thank you notes received from the West Branch Fire Department, Trillium House, Toys for Tots and Habitat for Humanity for benevolences received. Also a thank you card from recipients of Christmas meal baskets.

~January Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports were reviewed and accepted with no outstanding bills.

~Pastor Luedeman on vacation March 16-22 with Pastor Lauri Maki leading worship March 22.

~Lenten and Holy Week services have been scheduled.

~"Plants, Pies & Summer Buys" annual event will be held May 30 at Emanuel. Emanuel will collect diaper and baby wipes in March for the Care Clinic. The Council designated \$100 to purchase clothing for the KI Sawyer school clothes closet.

~ Local Benevolence for February went to Camp New Day U.P. which supports youth who have parents that are incarcerated.

~The March 4 Midweek Lenten Service offering will be given to the Skandia/ West Branch First Responders.



2026 Council Members Installation

April 2026

Pastor Lloyd ~ Tuesdays 10am-2pm

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Maundy Thurs- day Worship 7 PM	3 Good Friday Worship 7 PM	4
5 11 AM 	6 AA Mtg 7 PM	7 Quilting 1-3 pm	8	9	10	11
12 10AM Adult Forum 11AM- Worship	13 AA Mtg 7 PM	14 Quilting 1-3 pm	15	16	17	18
19 10AM Adult Forum 11AM- Worship	20 AA Mtg 7 PM	21 Quilting 1-3 pm Council 530 pm	22	23	24	25
26 10AM Adult Forum 11 AM- Worship	27 AA Mtg 7 PM	28 Quilting 1-3 pm	29	30		

The April 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 11AM