



*Emanuel Lutheran Church*  
 501 E. Danafer St.  
 Ludington MI 49431  
 231-843-3686  
 fax: 231-843-3688  
 office@emanuel-lutheran.com  
 www.emanuel-lutheran.com

**PARISH STAFF**

**Rev. James L. Friesner, Jr.--Pastor**  
 pastor@emanuel-lutheran.com

**Craig Avery, Music Director**  
 craigaverypianist@gmail.com

**Hjordis Rivet--Children & Youth Program Director**  
 hjordis@charter.net

**Sally Teague, Sexton**  
 office@emanuel-lutheran.com

**Cathy Iteen, Interim Treasurer**  
 cathy@hardmanconstruction.com

**Kathy Keson, Financial Secretary**  
 kkeson@charter.net

**Lou McCarthy, Administrative Assistant**  
 office@emanuel-lutheran.com

**Parish Office Hours:**

**Monday-Thursday 9:00 A.M.-- 4:00 P.M.**  
 Lunch: 12:30 --1:00 p.m.

**The Office is closed on Fridays.**

**\*Parish Staff meetings: Mondays at 9:30 a.m.**



A special thank you to the members of our Herald mailing team who so graciously help to ready this publication for mailing each month. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!



*The Herald*

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**Emanuel Lutheran Church**

*An Evangelical Lutheran Community, ELCA*

501 E. Danafer St., Ludington, MI

Phone: 231-843-3686 Fax: 231-843-3688

e-mail: office@emanuel-lutheran.com

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Word & Sacrament celebrated on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

**Pastor's Annual Report of 2011**

*The Reverend James L. Friesner, Jr.,  
 Bachelor of Arts, Master of Divinity.*

The annual reporting of ministry is an important time in the life of our parish. In this annual reporting, we are all given an opportunity to review the past year by seeking clarity regarding what the ministry of the local parish has been about. We also look for some clarity regarding the future of our parish in the greater society in which we are called to live out the Good News of Jesus.

That being said, I am reminded of what we read from the book of Ecclesiastes 1:9-10, *“What has happened will happen again, and what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which it can be said, ‘Look, this is new’? No, it was already in existence, long before our time.”*

Most of our year has been focused on the budgetary issues surrounding and supporting the ministry of the Emanuel parish. It seems every council meeting, most one-on-one meetings, and a whole lot of ‘telephone ministry’ has been about how the finances are going to work out, who can be held accountable (blamed) for the revenue decline, and how we are going to get back on track.

To be honest with you, I am not sure getting back on that track is possible. Actually, I know it isn't. The many forces that surround the church and press in upon it every minute of every day are creating a different track. In my studies at McCormick, in the books I read--both assigned readings and just books I go looking for that will help me understand the place of the church in the here and the now--pretty much all say the same thing.

Let me paraphrase if I may. These church gurus, without reservation, both acknowledge and propagate this one truth: *“The church and her leaders are living out their call on un-chartered waters.”* What they mean by that is, we can't keep doing what we have always done. The world in which we minister has changed substantially in the last generation (25 years).

The allegiance that was once present to support the church has been washed away by a consumerist mentality. Instead of saying, "This is what I am willing to give back to God for all that God has given me;" the new thought is, "If I get what I want from worship, then I will support the church. If not, I will go somewhere else." Every church, in every community, is trying to survive under this new mentality. Emanuel is not the only one struggling.

But how does this new way of thinking align itself with the call of the Gospel? Someone more famous than I once said, "The church only exists for those outside the church." If we lose sight of this, 'the church' becomes nothing more than a 'social club' that remains in existence for one reason and one reason alone. That reason is to 'cater' to the members of the club.

Private Clubs are being closed daily because they do not have enough members to sustain the demands of the few who belong. Local churches are doing the same. I recently learned that one main-line denomination is closing three churches a month because they are no longer vital, sustainable ministries. That number does not include the consolidation of congregations. Locally, we recently saw consolidation happen in our Catholic community. Check with our local synod office and learn for yourself of how many congregations have been closed or consolidated in the last six years. We are living out our call on unchartered waters.

I have recently read a couple of resources that talk about the life-cycle of the church. Both resources use the analogy of human life to describe the life of the local parish. We are born in the heart of God. We flourish and give new life to the next generation. Then, when the work we have been called to do is completed, our ministry ceases to exist; we die.

Perhaps we need to consider exactly what that means in the context of Emanuel's life and ministry and recognize that, without the financial support or communal goal and vision needed, *Emanuel will die*. That was a difficult sentence to type and then to read, but it is the truth. It is not that we can't keep going as we are...it is that we will **NOT** keep going as we are. Emanuel will shut her doors.

All of this brings me back to the scripture I offered at the beginning of my writing. Personally, I would have given up a long time ago, except that I believe what I have quoted from Ecclesiastes. We may have never experienced these unchartered waters before, but God has. In God, Emanuel can find new life. This I believe with all my heart...

## Parish Committees & Chairs

<b>Altar Guild</b>		<b>Property</b>	
Jenny Grey	343-3222	Jerry Welton	843-4743
Norma Friesner	468-9233	<b>Scholarship</b>	
<b>Christian Outreach</b>		Sonja Siewert	794-8106
Linda Ochs	843-4942	<b>Stewardship</b>	
<b>Christian Education</b>		Jim Grey	843-0990
Bill Anderson	845-5684	Jeanne Kagey	843-9945
<b>Congregational Care</b>		<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>	
Sandy Nelson	845-5295	Jenny Grey	343-3222
<b>Finance</b>			
Joyce Usiak	852-0066		

## Officers and Council Members

### *Executive Board*

Rev. James L. Friesner, Jr., 231-468-9155, Parish Pastor

Jerry Welton, 843-4743, President

James Grey, 843-0990, Vice-President

Steve Mertz, 845-1185, Secretary

Tony Hamm, 843-9540, At-Large

### *Through 2011*

James Grey	843-0990	Position C
Larry Rees	843-8235	Position D
Jerry Welton	843-4743	Position E
Sandy Nelson	845-5295	Position F

### *Through 2012*

Tamara Brand	843-0089	Position I
Tony Hamm	843-9540	Position J
Joyce Usiak	852-0066	Position K
Ann Bird	845-5523	Position L

### *Through 2013*

Seree' Jo Schmidt	898-6193	Position A
Cindy Jarvie	843-2613	Position B
Steve Mertz	845-1185	Position G
Donald Verduin	425-3549	Position H

### *Ministry Support Team*

Lou McCarthy	757-9629	Administrative Assistant
Hjordis Rivet	425-3633	Children's Family Ministry
Craig Avery	233-1680	Music Director
Sally Teague	845-6706	Sexton
Kathy Keson	845-9150	Financial Secretary
Yvonne Bannon	90-2495	Nursery Caregiver
Eric Dixon	843-9253	Grounds

# Christian Ed in the News!

**Kid's club meets Feb 7 & 21st**, March 6 & 20th, April 3 & 17, May 1 & 15 (last meeting of the year).

## **Mission Trip News:**

Team-building sessions with St. Paul & United Methodist:

- April 13, 4:30-7 pm @ Emanuel Lutheran
- June 8th, time & place TBA

**ONGOING CAN/BOTTLE DRIVE:** Please consider supporting our youth in this simple way. *To date we have raised over \$250.* The goal is to continue building the momentum and reach \$1500 by June with this effort alone. **"Can we do it?...Yes, we "Can"!!**

For more information on youth activities, contact Hjordis at 843-3686.

**Please keep our Confirmation Students in prayer:**

**Madisyn Brockelbank, Zachery Buskirk, Kaitlyn Dixon, Kyle Dixon, Rune Kirby, Jacob Lesinski, Julia Maltbie, Maggie Nagle, Tambrea Sumner, Lacie Sroka and Cady Thomas**

**Leah Cutler, Emily Millspaugh, and Morgan Mitchell**

## Parish Ministries



Wednesday  
Morning  
Prayer Group

Join us each Wednesday at 11:00 am  
as we pray for the special intentions of our parish.

**EMERGENCY MEALS:** As an outreach ministry of Emanuel Lutheran Church, meals are delivered to those recovering from an illness, accident or another emergency situation. If you know of someone who is in need of emergency meals, please call the parish office at 843-3686.



An informal men's small-group ministry called **"Coffee and Conversation"**, consists, very simply, of a weekly opportunity to get together. For information, see Steve Mertz after church, or join us this Wednesday at 9 AM at Brenda's Harbor Cafe, 316 S. James St.

Our God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has been faithful from generation to generation. *"There is nothing new under the sun"*; God has created all there is, and God has redeemed it with His own Son. That means no matter the darkness or the despair we are not alone. God is with us. God has redeemed us. And God has a plan for us, even on uncharted waters.

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I continue to give thanks for the support staff that is ours. Many thanks to Lou McCarthy, Hjordis Rivet, Craig Avery, Sally Teague, Yvonne Bannon, Cathy Iteen, and Kathy Keson. Their love of God and dedication to Emanuel is apparent every day.

Very special thanks, also, to Tammy Brand for her many years of service before she retired last fall. Her expertise, her wisdom, and her passion for the role she filled as our treasurer are all deeply missed by the pastor.

For any specific committee reporting, I refer you to the committee reports that are included in this packet. My ministerial statistics are attached to this report.

Grace and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ be yours now and forever,

*Rev. James L. Friesner, Jr.*

The Rev. James L. Friesner, Jr.



**PS: Just a reminder that Ash Wednesday, February 22, marks the beginning of our 2012 Lenten Season. Ash Wednesday services will be at 12:05 pm and 7:00 pm. We will, once again, be joining with Bethany Lutheran, Trinity-Victory Lutheran and Grace Episcopal churches for Wednesday Evening Lenten Services. Services will begin at 5:30 pm, with a meal and program following at 6:15 pm. Please plan to join us for this enriching Lenten practice.**

# February 80+ Birthday Club

**Congratulations and Happy Birthday to:**

**Ardith Johnson (2-07)**  
**Robert Wilson (2-11)**  
**Doris Hartman (2-21)**

For a complete list of February birthdays,  
 please visit our website at: [www.emanuel-lutheran.com](http://www.emanuel-lutheran.com)

## Congratulations and Welcome!

The Emanuel parish family is proud to announce the birth of **Myles William Miller**, son of Erica and Brennan Miller of Portland, Oregon. Myles, the grandson of Jim and Terri Boomgaard, was born on Tuesday, December 27, 2011. **Welcome Myles!**



The Emanuel parish family extends our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of **Patricia McDonald**, sister of Fred (Pat) Slimmen, who passed away on Wednesday, January 18, 2012. Cards of sympathy may be sent to the family at 5150 Boggy Creek Rd, Lot R23, St Cloud, FL 34771.

**May she rest in peace.**

Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church ELCA,

The Salvation Army and Toys for Tots would like to thank-you for adopting the families. We greatly appreciate it and hope you enjoyed shopping for them. The families really liked everything you got them. Thanks, again, for everything. So this is just a little note with a GREAT BIG THANK-YOU!



Assistant Toys for Tots Coordinator  
 Sue Mikulskis

A big Thank You to everyone who volunteered to serve as a volunteer during the recent survey process! You will be contacted soon by the appropriate committee chairperson. If you do not hear from one of us in the next 30 days, please call Jenny Grey at 231-343-3222 or send an email to [jennygreyus@yahoo.com](mailto:jennygreyus@yahoo.com). Also, if you have served in the past and your name has inadvertently been dropped from our lists, please let Jenny know. We are very grateful to all of our willing volunteers.



## A Measure of Our Love



A total of **\$3,545.00** per week is needed to maintain the day-to-day ministry of our parish.

Date Rec'd	Attendance	Envelope Offerings	Year-to-Date
01/01	53	\$2,090	-\$1,455
01/08	95	\$4,561	-\$ 439
01/15	101	\$2,177	-\$1,807
01/22	101	\$3,128	-\$2,224
Noisy Offering (\$1,000 pledged)		Rec'd to date:	\$78.73
LSSM (\$1,000 pledged)		Rec'd to date:	\$40.00
Missions (\$1,000 pledged)		Rec'd to date:	\$ —
World Hunger (\$1,000 pledged)		Rec'd to date:	\$ —

## Please save us postage!

If you have not yet picked up your 2012 envelopes, please do so. They are available on the half-shelf.



## EMANUEL WILL HOST COMMUNITY TABLE MEAL SERVICE ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, AT COMMUNITY CHURCH

Your help is needed. We especially need donations of cakes/cupcakes for dessert. Watch for the sign-up sheet in Luther Hall. Please consider this opportunity to be of service to the greater Ludington community.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** of Mason County will be conducting an "Application Orientation" for those interested in qualifying for a Habitat house on Saturday, February 18, 2012 beginning at 9:00 am at the United Methodist Church of Ludington located on Bryant Rd just west of Jebavy. Topics will cover: Three criteria for family selection, Process of the selection committee, and understanding the Habitat mortgage. There will be assistance in filling out the application. **Those interested in attending need to call our office at 843-7888 to register.**

