



# Emmanuel

United Church of Christ

1306 Michigan Street  
Oshkosh, WI 54902  
920.235.8340  
[emmanueloshkosh.org](http://emmanueloshkosh.org)

the lamplighter

Hearing Loop Installed in Sanctuary.  
Switch Hearing Aid to Telecoil.







**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**

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## From the Desk of Pastor Andi

JANUARY 2024

I was reading over some old newsletter the other day. I came across my newsletter article for January 2018 and was reminded that was the year my trusted van hit 100,000 miles. Funny thing, just last week I watched her hit 200,000 miles. I anxiously darted my eyes from the odometer to the road over and over until I saw the mileage change. And then I patted the dash and told her she is doing a great job. Maybe in 2030 we will hit 300,000 miles together!

Some things just feel significant. The first day of January marks the beginning of a new year. Yet it doesn't seem that much different than the days that were before or the days that follow. Its significance come from the emphasis we place on it. For some of us, it offers a place to make real change—New Year: New Me. It offers us a place to start some sort of improvement in our life.

I don't usually make New Year's resolutions, but I embrace the reasoning behind it. Taking a moment to evaluate our lives, gauge our joy, and plan for improvement is a wonderful and healthy thing to do. In fact, I think everyone should be doing it! Change is hard and we are usually more inclined to stay in our current situation rather than commit to the work of bringing about change. But when we decide to actively pursue joy, our lives change.

I don't know what changes you are needing to make in your life. Heck—I am not always sure about the changes I need to make in my own life! But I know that when we choose to follow where joy leads us, our lives improve exponentially.

But here is the rub—we can't evaluate our lives, gauge our joy, and plan for improvement just one day out of the year. This is something I am going to encourage you to do every day. The reason so many of these sweeping New Year's Resolutions fail is because we see it as an all or nothing kind of thing. Then if we fail in one part, we have failed as a whole. This year, might I suggest we try a new approach. Let's resolve each start of our day to embrace joy and be the best version of ourselves we can be, implementing slight changes that contribute to a greater whole. And at the end of the day, set aside time to take stock of your day. If it has been a good day, offer prayers of thanksgiving to God. If it's not been the best of days, offer prayers of thanksgiving to God, the gift of grace to yourself, and the resolve to be better tomorrow.

Happy New Year Emmanuel Family!  
- Pastor Andi, [pastor.andi@emmanueloshkosh.org](mailto:pastor.andi@emmanueloshkosh.org)

## Usher Schedule

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JANUARY 2024	
Sunday, January 7, 2024	Craig & Alison Geiger
Sunday, January 14, 2024	Ron & Sandra Golliher
Sunday, January 21, 2024	Dan & Rene Rogers
Sunday, January 28, 2024	Mike & Alice Peppler

*If you would like to help out with Ushering, please contact the church office at 920-235-8340 or by email at [office@emmanueloshkosh.org](mailto:office@emmanueloshkosh.org)*



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## Treasurer's Nook

Welcome to 2024 and all the joy and blessings the new year will bring.

November results were positive bringing our year-to-date results to a small deficit of (-\$339). Considering our financial positions just a few months ago, we have done a tremendous job in controlling our expenses and increasing our revenue to leave us at a break-even point.

Thank you to all.

As we move into 2024, we need to remember the estimated \$13,000 sidewalk bill we should be receiving very soon. At the end of November, we have raised \$950 towards this debt.

I'd like to remind everyone that utilizing the RaiseRight program is an easy way to help raise extra funds for us. They are easy to purchase and easy to use. If you have any questions on this program, you can call the church office or talk with a person selling the cards each Sunday morning.

Happy New Year.

### November 2023 Results

The Numbers	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Direct Giving	17,211	<b>14,190</b>	190,722	<b>180,805</b>
Other Income	4,208	<b>3,659</b>	42,574	<b>48,180</b>
Total Income	21,419	<b>17,849</b>	233,296	<b>228,985</b>
Total Expenses	21,523	<b>17,162</b>	242,979	<b>229,325</b>
Cashflow/(Deficit)	(104)	<b>687</b>	(9,683)	<b>(339)</b>

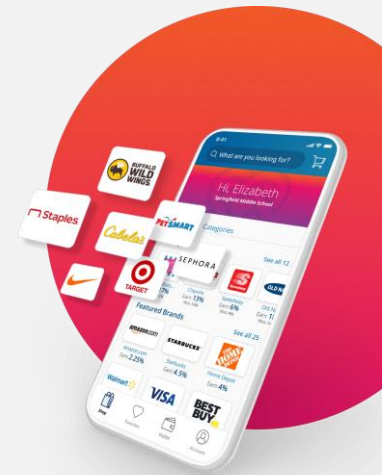
**Kim Winter**  
Treasurer

## RaiseRight Gift Cards

RAISERIGHT GIFT CARD ORDERS ARE DUE SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024

*We will give you a call when the gift cards are available. Please also remember, we have a limited supply of gift cards available on Sunday mornings and weekday mornings in the church office for purchase. This program is a great boost to our income. Thank you to everyone who uses this program!*

*Thank you to **LEANNE MONROE & LISA SMITH** for managing the purchasing of the cards.  
Thank you to **MARGARET YODER & SANDY GOLLIHER** for their help with the sale of the gift cards on Sunday morning.*



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## Food Pantry

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Thank you to everyone for bringing in food to help supplement what we are able to get from our resource centers. Our numbers steadily increase which means our shelves are emptying faster.

***During the month of January we are asking for Hamburger Helper/Mac'n Cheese.***

Our participation in the Celebration of Lights has brought in some wonderful non-perishable food items. Thank you to everyone who went through the lights and brought non-perishable food times to help those in need. We would like to thank **DAN & LEANNE MONROE, DEB KRAEMER, RAY HITZ, RON & SANDRA GOLLIHER, DAN & RENE ROGERS, JIM & JODY SCHAICK, HENRY CARON & HIS**

**GRANDCHILDREN, RICK PEPPLER & HIS GRANDCHILDREN, EARL & LAURIE DORST, MIKE & KIM WINTER, JOLENE & FARRAH FINLEY & THE GIRL SCOUT TROUP FROM RIPON** for volunteering to collect food at the Celebration of Lights. Your help is greatly appreciated!

We also want to thank our dedicated volunteers for their help in the food pantry on a weekly basis. Thank you to **HENRY CARON, RAY HITZ, MARGARET YODER, CHERYL PEPPLER, SANDY FOLSKE, GAIL HABLE, DEB KRAEMER, LISA SMITH, RON GORCHELS, MARY DINKINS, JODY SCHAICK, PETER SMITH, JIM SCHAICK, DAN MONROE & RICK PEPPLER.**

Thank you to **Red's Piggly Wiggly and Jay Koepke and Festival Foods** for their continued support of our pantry.

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## Thank you!

*We would like to thank all of the members of Emmanuel who contributed to the staff gifts for Christmas. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank everyone who helps make our jobs easier throughout the year.*

*We look forward to working together to make 2024 a great year! We wish you many blessings for this New Year!*

*Pastor Andi, Mary Dinkins & Lori Holland*



- Thank you to **ROBIN WILSON & CONNIE WHITTAKER** for your years of service on the Church Council.
- Thank you to **CORY SCHULTZ, ZACH WOLF, KIM WINTER, LEANNE MONROE, LISA SMITH, JODY SCHAICK & NOAH WILSON** for your help with the projection system.
- Thank you to **LEANNE MONROE, KIM WINTER, LISA SMITH, RENE ROGERS, MEG HABLE & THE CRAIG GEIGER FAMILY** for cleaning around the church.
- Thank you to **LINDA STOWE, PETER SMITH & JULIE BARTHELS** for your help with the readings during worship.
- **Thank you Ray!** 😊
- Thank you to **MARILYN MORRISON** for the flowers in the planters by the entryway. These are in memory of her Mom, Mildred Hinz.



## Coming Up

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### Church Council Installation

Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 9:00a

**Annual Meeting Reports are due** on Sunday, January 14, 2024

### Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:30p

### Sunday School

Sunday, January 14, 2024 – 10:00am

Sunday, January 28, 2024 – 10:00am

### Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 10:00a



# Memorial & Honorarium

## DECEMBER MEMORIAL & ENDOWMENT REPORT

In loving memory of **BOB BRUCE**

A gift to the **Music Fund** by  
Mary Dinkins

In loving memory of **ARLYSS LUFT**

A gift to the **Memorial Fund** by  
Dan & Rene Rogers  
Mike & Kim Winter  
Earl & Laurie Dorst  
Ron & Sandy Golliher  
Pam & Emery Freiberg  
Rose Good

Mike & Alice Peppler  
Dan & Leanne Monroe  
Jeff & Ann Stark  
Dennis & Beverly Edwards  
JoAnn Schoblaski  
Sandy Villalobos

In loving memory of **DOROTHY SIMONS**

A gift to the **Memorial Fund** by  
Family & Friends

In loving memory of **JIM KRAEMER**

A gift to the **Memorial Fund** by  
Margaret Yoder  
Gail & Meg Hable  
Gary & Linda Stowe  
Mike & Alice Peppler  
Gary & Kay Lund  
Mike & Kim Winter  
Dave & Mary Rapp  
Dennis & Karen Chapin  
Brad & Liz Schultz  
Sandy Folske  
Family & Friends

Glen & Julie Barthels  
Tom & Candy McGinnis Stark  
Sue Neitzel  
Dennis & Bev Edwards  
Ron & Joan Gorchels  
Al & Jan Schaick  
Gerry & Lisa Keuler  
Dan & Leanne Monroe  
Audrey Peppler  
Sherry Peppler

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## Church Council

### Church Council Meeting      December 12, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Leanne. Opening prayer by Pastor Andi.

**President's Report:** Jeff Stark put together some documents relating to the energy stock, welcome to Laurie and Earl Dorst as new deacons. Earl is filling an unfinished term.

**Secretary's Report:** Many small, mostly grammatical/spelling mistakes from the last minutes, which had been pointed out and corrected. Report accepted as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report:** Reviewed November financial reports. We had a positive cash flow of \$686.57 with a negative YTD of \$339.14. Alliant Energy stock was +\$1.78 (3.65%), this month, with a YTD of -\$4.64 (8.40%). Majority of expenses for the month were Employees Pension & Andi's Health Insurance, 4th Qtr Fed & SS Payroll Taxes, Envelopes, WPS, and City of Oshkosh – Water. Kim's extra comments: Quilters Group gave \$1,200 for building use, the internal transfer for food pantry (to offset energy expenses) will happen in December. Changes to Balance Sheet - Vanco, Youth Group, Carpet Fund, Vacant Lot Fund, Designated Missions, Choir Fund all removed. Report accepted.

**Pastor's Report:** General: We received a check from Pittsville UCC (my home church). They have been using my sermons from 2017 in their worship services. I don't know how long this will go on, but I suspect it will be a while. Our Thursday evening services are on hold the months of December and January. We will resume those services on February 1. February 14 is Ash Wednesday (happy Valentine's Day) and we will have our usual Wednesday Lenten Services. I will need to consider the 9:00 services as they were very sparsely attended. I am also looking at Lenten Studies to offer. Those were better attended over the lunch hour than in the evening. Feedback is always appreciated. I will be tabling plans for a sabbatical. I am more inclined to enter a time of personal and professional discernment. Last Month: I officiated at 2 funerals in November: Arlyss Luft on November 25 and Bill Gee on November 27. I was the legal officiant at the November 22 wedding of Cole Yoder and Katie Aman. After a bit of a hiatus from conference work, I have participated in 2 Conference Zoom meetings (November 16 and December 7) as we explore the role of Associations moving forward in the Wisconsin Conference. Lack of volunteers and rising costs have pushed us to re-examine the way we govern and minister together. A little background: the Wisconsin Conference is divided into four associations. The associations provide direct connections to the congregations in the state and help nurture their ministers.

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**Pastor's Report** *Continued*: The Associations are charged with promoting Christian fellowship among its local church members, providing leadership, training, and support for shared ministries of its local churches, expressing concern for the welfare of local churches, their ministers, and members, and helping churches and pastors in difficult situations such as crisis or misconduct on the part of pastor or parishioners. Authorization for Ministry and Standing is vested in the Associations. It is the Northeast Association Division of Church and Ministry that authorizes, oversees, and supports our pastors, churches, and commissioned ministers. This committee examines candidates for ordination and recommends whether or not they should be ordained, authorizes and recognizes persons as ministers, and authorizes disciplinary action against ministers. As we move forward, I think people are most concerned with centralizing these authorization for ministry tasks. This Month: A quick reminder that December 17 the OWHS Madrigals will sing at 8:45. The Sunday School Program will follow.

Christmas Eve services will be at 3:00 and 5:00. The choir will be singing at the 3:00 service. This will also be the service that is live streamed.

**Vice President's Report**: Dan said the new member's keys and codes are a WIP. Update the digital key log that Lori has with the information added to the physical one more regularly.

**Deacon's Report**: White paraments cleaning done, Rene says the green should be next. Small sacristy fridge died, one was donated to replace it.

**Trustee's Report**: Craig: Blue Diamond Carpet, got some estimates (\$760 for all areas, split into 4 areas). Dry carpet cleaning supplies and waxing supplies, the trustees will look into what we have as well as if the supplies are worth keeping/using or if they should be thrown out. Security Lubke is coming in for some roof repair estimates on December 13. Tom: Heater motor broken for back south park entrance, estimated ~\$75 for the replacement part. Switching lights to LED, the bulbs are getting harder to find and retrofitting them to LED would be better for the long term as well as for energy. Estimated <\$500 for the lights.

*Continued*



# Church Council

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Church Council Meeting

December 12, 2023

*Continued*

**Old Business:** Budget discussions. Eaton's Fundraiser- \$8.50 per pizza, sold Jan-Feb 15.

**New Business:** Cory Schultz asked about the Oakwood Boy Scout troop using the fellowship hall January 26 pm-27 all day for the pinewood derby, since the school may not be available and this would be a good backup plan. Motion carried.

**Good & Welfare:** Cory Schultz asked about waiting to grab the offering money until after the postlude music. Ron Golliher asked about advertising in the Herald for our church, which hasn't been done due to there being a cost. Guidelines for building use to be added to the use agreement, things like not letting the garbage overflow, and no scotch tape on the walls. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

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### EATON'S PIZZA COUPON SALE

\$8.50 per 12" medium pizza (Eaton's again) single topping. The coupons can also be used toward a pizza of your choice. Sale to start 1/2/24-2/15/24. Coupons available in the office, Sunday mornings scrip table or contact Leanne Monroe. 920-379-6338. Leanne will have some pizzas available on Sunday morning for sale as well if you want a fresh pizza made the day before. Leanne can take a request by contacting her by noon on Saturday, day before Sunday service and she will bring it to church Sunday morning.



### 2023 GIVING STATEMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE UPPER NARTHEX IN JANUARY

If you would like to have your statement emailed or mailed to you, please contact the church office.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO STILL WANTED GIVING ENVELOPES THEY ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE



*Please remember that there will be no Worship Service on Thursday evenings during the month of January. Thursday night Worship will resume on Thursday, February 1 at 6:30pm.*



Would you like to help with running the Projector, Cleaning or doing the Readings on Sunday?

It's easy to sign up! Just go to our website [www.emmanueloshkosh.org](http://www.emmanueloshkosh.org) click on Get Involved, then click on how can I help. Scroll down the page to what you would like to sign up for such as the Cleaning, this will take you to the sign up page and you can select what days and tasks work for you! Thanks for your consideration!

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Please remember, if you have a prayer request you can enter it on our website at [www.emmnaueloshkosh.org](http://www.emmnaueloshkosh.org). You can also call the church office at 920-235-8340 any weekday morning.



Sunday morning is usually a busy time for Pastor Andi. It would help her to remember if you are having surgery, or a procedure, if you could please call the church office (920-235-8340) or email the office at [office@emmanueloshkosh.org](mailto:office@emmanueloshkosh.org) and let Lori know so Pastor Andi can be with you and your family during this difficult time. Due to HIPAA the hospital is not allowed to call and let us know if you are a patient. Thank you for your help!

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If you have any questions or concerns for the Church Council, Memorial and Endowment Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee, please find the contact information below:

**Church Council**

Leanne Monroe	Zach Wolf
Kim Winter	Dan Rogers
Debra Kraemer	Earl Dorst
Rene Rogers	Laurie Dorst
Craig Geiger	Noah Wilson
Tom Stark	Jim Schaick

**Memorial/Endowment Committee:**

Gerry Keuler	Ann Stark
Kathleen Hable	Henry Caron
Sandy Golliher	Margaret Yoder
Emily Reyes	

**Pastoral Relations Committee:**

Sandra Golliher	Kay Lund
Julie Barthels	Lori Potratz
Faith Lueck	

*Please consider volunteering for any of these committees, please contact the church office 235-8340 if you are interested.*



## Additional Resources

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