

Émmanuel

United Church of Christ

1306 Michigan Street Oshkosh, WI 54902 920.235.8340 emmanueloshkosh.org

thelamplighter

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







Ushers

Treasurer's Nook

<u>RaiseRight</u>

Food Pantry

Thank you!

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From the Desk of Pastor Andi

October 2024

I miss salad bars. Remember the days when you got a plate, and you got to pick and choose what you wanted on your salad? You were in control! Don't want onions? Don't take them! Not feeling the tomatoes? No problem—you don't have to put them on there. And I like buffets where you can pick what you want and leave behind what you don't like. You get a clean plate and decide from a variety of options what you are eating today. Pick what you want—leave what you don't want. Go back—or don't. You rule at the buffet!

But as much as I like salad bars and buffets for my meals, I get really frustrated when people take that same approach to faith. We use the bible to justify all sorts of personal beliefs, while at the same time ignoring other parts of scripture that our personal belief don't align with. So, tell me, who told you that the teachings of Jesus were a buffet or a salad bar?

In his letter to the twelve tribes of the dispersion, James reminds us that we are accountable for the whole law. In his second chapter he reminds us of all that it is God who gave the law, and if we break one part, we are accountable for all of it. If we fail to love our neighbor, we have broken not just one commandment, but the commandments as a whole. This is no buffet where we get to pass pick and choose what we follow.

I believe we struggle with this a great deal. The law of God is written on our hearts, so we know when we have acted selfishly or vengefully. But instead of acknowledging our sin and turning to the right path, we double down and justify those sins (or at least try to justify them). We explain all the good we do, and perhaps point out how different the world is today. While we might be able to soothe our guilty conscience, I don't think God is amused.

It would be easier if we could just pick and choose the faith components on our plate, but discipleship is not a buffet. We are expected, no commanded, to put on our plate and follow all those commandments, not just the ones we like. And it would be great if faith was like horseshoes and hand grenades where close counts. In faith, keeping 9 out of the 10 commandments means you broke the 10 commandments.

I'm not getting upset because the law is broken. Honey, I am right there with ya, seeking grace. And while I am not God, I can't help but believe God isn't so much disappointed in our failings as in our complacency with sinning.

We won't be perfect, but we must be repentant. We don't know everything, but we must remain teachable. Imperfect people who keep trying to do better don't bother me. But complacent people who try to convince us all that keeping some of the law is good enough just rub me the wrong way.

We do a pretty good job of loving God with heart, soul, strength, and mind. It's that part about loving our neighbor as ourselves that seems to trip us up. But that is a great big part of being a disciple of Christ. Our world will be changed for the better when we seriously embrace the call to love all our neighbors as much as we love ourselves. When the church tenaciously centers in on that, she will not just survive, she will thrive.

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Usher Schedule

Would you like to Usher? Call the church office if you are interested. We will work around your schedule!

October 2024			
Sunday, October 6, 2024 9:00am	Ron & Sandra Golliher		
Sunday, October 13, 2024 9:00am	Dan & Rene Rogers		
Sunday, October 20, 2024 9:00am	Brad & Liz Schultz		
Sunday, October 27, 2024 9:00am	Volunteers Needed		

If you would like to be an Usher - please let us know!

You can sign up on the sheet in the Usher's closet, or contact Lori in the Church office at office@emmanueloshkosh.org. Thanks!





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Treasurer's Nook

As we move closer to the last quarter of the year with the anticipation of cooler weather, we are a fortunate congregation that our finances are not trending in the same manner. Our giving has been very generous and our expenses lower than planned, leaving us with a positive monthly cashflow of \$6,351 and a positive year-to-date cashflow of \$20,923. While these numbers are very good news, we do need to remain cognizant of the upcoming sidewalk expense and larger heating expenses as we move closer to the winter months.

Our sidewalk invoice is due by Nov 1 which totals \$12,590.94. As of August 30, we have \$10,290 available leaving us \$2,300.94 to raise. Thank you for all of the support. If you would like to help with this cause, make a note on your donation reflecting 'sidewalk fund' or contact the church office.

August 2024 Results

The Numbers	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Direct Giving	16,749	17,548	136,408	138,011
Other Income	4,856	6,149	37,417	41,608
Total Income	21,605	23,697	173,825	179,619
Total Expenses	21,875	17,346	181,564	158,696
Cashflow/(Deficit)	(270)	6,351	(7,739)	20,923

Kím Winter Treasurer





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RaiseRight Gift Cards

HAVE YOU TRIED OUT OUR RAISERIGHT GIFT CARD PROGRAM?

You will have an opportunity to order gift cards on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

Grab an order blank from the RaiseRight desk in the lower narthex and check out all of the gift cards that are available. There is a gift card for just about anything you can imagine. When you purchase a gift card through the RaiseRight program Emmanuel gets a percentage of cash back! We will notify you when the cards are available. It's the easiest way to shop! With the holidays fast approaching, think about ordering your cards from us. We have a limited supply of gift cards available on hand.

Thank you to **LISA SMITH & LEANNE MONROE** for making the program available to us. Thank you to **MARGARET YODER & SANDRA GOLLIHER** for selling the cards on Sunday.







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Food Pantry

September 2024

During the month of October we are asking if you could please donate **CANNED SPAGHETTI O'S, SPAGHETTI, RAVIOLI ETC.** Thank you to everyone for bringing in diced tomatoes and tomato sauce during September.

During the month of August we served 81 families. 143 adults and 125 children were served. 9 families were new to our pantry.

Thank you so very much to our dedicated volunteers without whom we wouldn't be able to keep the pantry open.



Thank you to Henry Caron, Gail Hable, Sherry Peppler, Sandy Peppler, Peter Smith, Deb Kraemer, Jody Schaick, Mary Dinkins, Rick Peppler, Jim Schaick, Dan Monroe and Mike Winter.

Thank you to **Red's Piggly Wiggly and Jay Koepke and Festival Foods** for continuing to support our pantry. Thank you also to **Steve Fredrick and The Snitz Club** for contributing beverages to the pantry.





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Thank you!

- Thank you to Marilyn Morrison for supplying the beautiful flowers in the entryway planters in memory of her Mom, Mildred Hinz.
- Thank you to Leanne Monroe for providing the beautiful fall arrangements in the bathrooms.
- Thank you to **Ann Stark** for providing the children's activity bags.
- Thank you to **Dennis & Karen Chapin, Mary Dinkins, Marilyn Morrison and Val Basler** for picking up the donuts, making the coffee and cleaning up after coffee hour. We appreciate your willingness to do this so we can enjoy fellowship after worship on Sunday.
- Thank you to Cory Schultz, Zach Wolf, Kim Winter, Leanne Monroe, Jody Schaick, Lisa Smith, Noah Wilson and Craig Geiger for running the video equipment and projection equipment during our worship services.
- Thank you Ray! 😊
- Thank you to Linda Stowe, Peter Smith, Quinn Bursack and Deb Kraemer for doing the readings during worship.
- Thank you to **Kim Winter, Lisa Smith and Leanne Monroe** for cleaning around the building. Thank you also to everyone who has been helping to keep the building picked up and for cleaning up the areas you have used.
- Thank you to Jim Schaick for taking care of the outdoor maintenance.
- Thank you to **Craig Geiger** for spraying for bugs around the property.

If you would like to help with ANYTHING around the church, just let us know! You can sign up for CLEANING, LITURGISTS AND WORKING WITH THE PROJECTION SYSTEM by going on our website www.emmanueloshkosh.org click on Get Involved then click on How Can I Help. Scroll down the page and sign up for one of the jobs needing to be filled. There is always something that needs to be done, so check it out and help us out today!





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Tuesday, October 8th at 6:30pm

Church Council Meeting

Sunday, October 13th & 27th at 10:00am

Sunday School

Sunday, October 13th

Soup2Go Orders are due

Sunday, October 20th

Soup2Go Order Pick-up

Tuesday, October 22nd at 6:30pm

Memorial/Endowment Meeting

Wednesday, November 27, 2024 at 7:00pm

Thanksgiving Eve Worship with Communion

Saturday, November 30, 2024

Decorating for Christmas, volunteers are needed!







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Sunday School Mission Project - Jefferson Elementary Book Drive

I love to read! It is a passion shared by my mom and sisters, and one I hope to have passed down to my kids. Being able to read and understand what you just read is foundational to learning, I think that goes without saying. But for me, reading opens up a whole new world. I not only find entertainment in reading (I love mysteries) but I have found a great deal of spiritual support and encouragement in my devotionals and 'work based' reading.

I know not everyone enjoys reading. But it is a skill we need to have to succeed—whether it be in the classroom or the workplace. One way to encourage literacy is to encourage kids to read about things they enjoy. I remember how the kids would come home with their Book Fair flyers, excitedly showing me all of the books they would like to get. We would set a reasonable dollar limit and they would pick the books they wanted most. Sometimes we went a little over the limit because the choices were just so good! What a blessing to be able to encourage that excitement.

I know not everyone has the financial ability to do that, because I have been there. I know how frustrating it feels to always have to say "no" to all these extras our kids want because the money isn't there. To that end, we have set an ambitious goal to fundraise so that all 260+ students at Jefferson can purchase a book at the next book fair in November. I know—VERY AMBITIOUS! Help me make sure every child who wants to bring home a new book can do so. Just imagine all those happy faces . Simply mark any donations with Jefferson Book Drive. We will keep you posted on how this mission takes off!

Pastor Andi







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Church Council Meeting September 10, 2024

Meeting called to order by Leanne. Opening prayer by Pastor Andi.

President's Report: Blinds for the west side windows are in and correct, the East side blinds are still too short and are being sent in to hopefully be correct the third time. The Pizza Ranch fundraiser felt pretty good, and for the work it is doing it again sounds like a good idea. Ballot is full except for one deacon position still needed. M&E minutes were sent out.

Secretary's Report: Report accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed August financial reports. We had a positive cash flow of \$6,350.81 with a positive YTD of \$20,923.13. Alliant Energy stock was +\$2.61 (4.69%) this month, with a YTD of +\$6.97 (13.59%). Majority of expenses for the month were Emp Pension & Andi's Health Ins, OCWM, Tom's Custom Blinds, WPS - Gas & Electric, 2024 SS Mission - Operation Not Alone and SS Mission - Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Treasurer's Report accepted as printed.

Pastor's Report: General: Started my Communities of Practice, which is a professional development and accountability group. These groups are highly encouraged by the conference. Mine meets in person in September and May, and virtually October through April. I was contacted last month by First Congregation about providing Pastoral coverage for them until their new pastor arrives in November. This would just be critical hospital visits and funerals. This Month: September 4th was Ron Gorchels funeral, September 8 Rally Day—I believe we had about 28-30 students, so it was a pretty good kick-off for the Christian Education year, September 11 Confirmation meeting with students and parents, September 13 Meeting at Jefferson Elementary, September 15 Baptism—Lainey Sauer, September 22 Baptism—Callie Schumann. For the Future: I hope to do some visitation training with anyone who might even remotely be interested in visiting folks who are homebound or in nursing homes. It would just be a session or two. It is important that lay members begin claiming some of the ministry done here at Emmanuel. It would not lessen my visits, just make sure our shut-ins get more contact. I am looking at fall bible/book studies.

Deacon's Report: Discussed paraments storage--ideas still welcome.

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Church Council Meeting September 10, 2024 Continued...

Trustee's Report: Shredding has been finished, Craig is going to coordinate with Lori in order to make this happen more than once every 3 decades. Some water/brick damage near the entrance, we've fixed some like it before but want to also check on the gutters and make sure there isn't a cause to the damage other than just rain that we could fix.

Old Business: Sidewalk fund, by 10/15 (next meeting) we need to have the final figure we request from the M&E funds, with 11/1 being the day we need to pay the bill.

New Business: Vandewalle's chocolate bars picked up- 15 totes of 40 bars (600 bars total), with the goal to start selling on the 10th of November before and after services. Kwik Trip car wash cards signup sheet will start November 1st. Soup-to-Go fundraiser was approved.

Good & Welfare: discussed budgeting for a custodian for next year's budget. Maybe about 5-8 hours a week, the plan is to have this in the budget whether or not we actually use it just to have the numbers drawn up for it.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is on October 8th, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.





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Winnebago Mental Health Institute's 2024 Christmas Project

For those of you who would like to support the Winnebago Mental Health Institute's Christmas Project, a list of items needed and further information is located on the entryway bulletin board. Gifts need to be delivered no later than the first week in December. Questions? Call Kerry O'Sullivan at (920)235-4910 ext. 2311.

Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

"Mental Health is a Universal Human Right"

In 2024, the Neighbors in Need theme is "Mental Health Justice For All!" This year's focus is on Mental Health Justice. In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey.

As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

We are accepting donations to NIN throughout the month of October. Please use the envelope enclosed in this Lamplighter for your donations. Please don't forget to put your name on the envelope to receive credit to your account.





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Vote for the 2025 Church Council Voting can be done during the month of October for the positions that are up for election.



President; Leanne Monroe

Treasurer; Rene Rogers

Deacon; Earl Dorst

Deacon; Deb Kraemer

Trustee; Craig Geiger

Trustee; Jim Schaick

**Please note that we are still in need of one more deacon position to be filled.

Please let us know if you would be interested. **





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Something to think about to plan ahead...

We will be starting our Kwik Trip Car Wash Fundraiser on 10/31. The cards will be sold as a presale during the month of November. Each card will be \$40 - good for 5 car washes. Money will be due when you place your order. The sign-up sheet will be located on the gift card table in the lower narthex.





We will be selling VandeWalles candy bars again in time for Christmas. Sale dates will be posted in upcoming bulletins and Lamplighters.

If you have any ideas for other fundraisers, let us know. We are always looking for ways to raise money to help the budget!



Sidewalk Update...

Way back in the early part of 2023 we were informed some of our sidewalk squares would need to be replaced. We watched as they came out and marked a huge amount of squares that would be replaced. We made a rough estimate of \$13,000 for this project. After many months, the bill finally came and our estimate was pretty close—\$12,590.94. Those monies are due November 1. To date, we have raised about \$10,290 leaving us to still raise about \$2300. Thank you for your extravagant generosity—we are almost there!

Something to think about....

We are looking to start a visitation ministry. Being unable to go to the places that are important to you is a very disheartening reality for some. Missing your church can be especially difficult for those in nursing homes or unable to leave home. Having regular visits from church can make a huge difference. Pastor is planning to schedule some 'training' meetings for those interested in this ministry. Please keep an eye out for more information and come to one of the sessions. Attending a session does not mean you will have to do any visits! Please give this some prayerful consideration.





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Operation Not Alone...

We are still collecting supplies for Operation Not Alone as an ongoing Sunday school mission project. The following supplies are needed to help with the care packages that will be sent overseas.

Items needed are: Hygiene Supplies, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Tissues, Chapstick, Bar Soap, Crew Socks, Puzzle Books and Small Games.

Please place your donations in the green Rubbermaid container in the coffee hour area in the lower narthex. Thank you!

Baptisms...Lainey Rae Sauer was baptized on Sunday, September 15th. Lainey is the daughter of Codey & Julia Sauer. **Callie Elizabeth Schumann** was baptized on Sunday, September 22nd. Callie is the daughter of Jeremy & Abby Schumann. May God continue to bless Lainey and Callie and their families.

Thank you to Pastor Andi, Leanne Monroe, Kim Winter, Rick Peppler, Alice Peppler, Rene Rogers and Lori Holland for helping out at the Pizza Ranch Fundraiser held on Monday, August 19th. We raised \$514.21 at this event!! Thank you to everyone who attended the event.

CONTACT US

Please remember, if you have a prayer request you can enter it on our website, or call the church office any weekday morning.

Sunday morning is usually a busy time for Past 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 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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"The amazing thing to me is that an angry thought can be changed.

I asked everyone that day to consciously change one angry thought into a loving thought each day. This, I offered, is how we become that small pebble of kindness that send out a ripple effect, creating a safer, more peaceful, and loving world.

Change one thought a day, I repeated, and choose love."

-Scarlet Lewis





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Name: _____

ORDERS ARE DUE OCTOBER 13TH PICK UP WILL BE AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 20TH

\$8.00 PER QUART

Loaded Baked Potato

Chili without Beans	How Many	
Chili <i>with</i> Beans	How Many	
Chicken Dumpling	How Many	
French Onion	How Many	

How Many

You can call the church office at 920.235.8340 or email at <u>office@emmanueloshkosh.org</u> to play your order as well!





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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: Pastoral Relations Committee:

Gerry Keuler Ann Stark Sandra Golliher Kay Lund

Deb Bartel Jeff Stark Julie Barthels Lori Potratz

Sandy Golliher Margaret Yoder Faith Lueck

Emily Reyes

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





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Click **HERE** for our online calendar.

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Additional Resources

We'd love to hear from you!

Click here to give us your feedback.

Visit us on social media.





