

# 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** 

RaiseRight

**Food Pantry** 

Thank you!

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## From the Desk of Pastor Andi

December 2024

I put my Christmas tree up this past weekend—about 12 days before Thanksgiving. I think this is the earliest I have ever put it up. In years prior I have had people tell me that I really should wait until after Thanksgiving. Uninvited, they would also share when was the 'right' time to take the tree down. My snarky response to this unsolicited opinion is usually asking if I should expect their part of the mortgage via check, Zelle or Venmo. I mean, if you want a say in the house rules you need to be paying a part of the mortgage, right?! But all joking aside, the real question is, "Why do you feel a need to share that? Why do you think that the way you do things is the only 'right' way?" (Yikes—its that whole toilet paper under or over argument again!!)

Imagine how much more pleasant life would be if we kept our opinions to ourselves unless asked? From where I am sitting, so much of the angst of this present age could be tempered if we simply stayed in our own lane. In the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew, Jesus was speaking of judging others when he spoke about seeing the speck in our neighbor's eye while seemingly not noticing the log in our own eye. Jesus warns, "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For the judgment you give will be the judgment you get, and the measure you give will be the measure you get." But I think life would be so much simpler if we expanded that to include other areas of life. For every unsolicited opinion or piece of advice you give, the same will be offered to you by others who see places in your life where you could improve. Soon you would agree that the worst advice you get is the advice you never asked for.

We are called to be a grace-filled people. Sometimes the discipline of being a disciple that builds others up is learning that there is a time to speak and a time to keep silent. Before you speak this holiday season and beyond, THINK first. Are my words True? Are they Helpful? Are they Inspiring? Are they Necessary? Are my words Kind? T-H-I-N-K before speaking, offering advice, or correcting one another—and you might just save your family holiday celebrations!

Quite honestly, it doesn't matter to me when others think trees and other decorations should be put up or taken down, or when we should start listening to Christmas music. It doesn't bother me at all if you want your Pumpkin Spice whatever in August. I don't mind if you earnestly pray for cooler fall temps when I like the summer. You do you and enjoy the life before you with everything you have. And I will be over here in my lane living my best life and enjoying it as much as I can. If I see you need a helping hand, I will try to offer that before you even have to ask. But as for my opinions about you and your life choices—I will try to keep those to myself unless you ask. Indeed, there is a season for everything and a time for every matter under heaven, just as Ecclesiastes states. And Jesus reminds us, the measure we give is the measure we get, and ultimately, we harvest what we plant.

Pastor Andi

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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!

#### **USHER SCHEDULE**

Sunday, December 1 – Ron & Sandra Golliher
Sunday, December 8 – Dan & Rene Rogers
Sunday, December 15 – Brad & Liz Schultz
Sunday, December 22 – Mike & Alice Peppler

Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

3:00 & 5:00pm Volunteers are Needed Sunday, December 29 – Randy & Connie Whittaker

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**

It's hard to believe but 2024 is quickly coming to a close as we enter the final month of the year. With all the hustle and bustle that this time of year brings, we need to remind ourselves to reflect on the special gift we all received so many years ago, the birth of Jesus Christ.

This past month, the sidewalk invoice of \$12,590.94 was paid. This impacted our expenses leaving us with a monthly cashflow deficit of (\$7,872). However, we continue to maintain a positive \$2,179 cashflow for the year. I'm hopeful that we will maintain this and end 2024 with a bang.

Merry Christmas to everyone.

#### October 2024 Results

The Numbers	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Direct Giving	16,931	13,414	170,309	164,782
Other Income	3,897	9,926	46,792	54,739
Total Income	20,828	23,340	217,101	219,522
Total Expenses	24,455	31,212	228,477	217,343
Cashflow/(Deficit)	(3,627)	(7,872)	(11,376)	2,179

Kím Winter

Treasurer

Thank you Kim, for a job well done as the Treasurer for the past 6 years. We appreciate your dedication to this job and all that you did!





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# RaiseRight Gift Cards

You will have two opportunites to place your RaiseRight orders before Christmas. Orders will Be placed on December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup>.

All of your Christmas shopping can be done by filling out a RaiseRight order form and turn it in here at Church before December 1<sup>st</sup> or December 15<sup>th</sup> and we will give you a call when your order arrives. There are so many gift cards to choose from. Every gift card you order gives money back to Emmanuel! Remember also, we have a limited supply of gift cards available on Sunday mornings, or weekday mornings in the church office.

Thank you to **Leanne Monroe & Lisa Smith** for ordering the gift cards and keeping the program running so smoothly. Thank you also to **Margaret Yoder & Sandra Golliher** for selling the cards on Sunday.









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# **Food Pantry**

Thank you to everyone for contributing food during the month of November. We received so many great non-perishable food items to help fill our shelves. Our numbers are steadily increasing and we are having to purchase food to help fill the bags. Everything you have donated helps so much!

During the month of December, we are asking for **CEREAL.** This is one item that we are having to buy on a regular basis. It is rarely available at our resource center and the government commodities. If you find a sale, please help us out by picking up a couple of boxes. During the month of October, we served 103 families. 187 Adults and 150 children were served. We had 19 new families utilize our pantry. All of your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to **Henry Caron** for all of your time going to different stores to get the best deals on groceries, and everything you do to help keep the shelves stocked and the pantry managed so well! Thank you to our dedicated volunteers. Thank you to **Gail Hable, Sherry Peppler, Sandy Folske, Deb Kraemer, Peter Smith, Rick Peppler, Jody Schaick, Jim Schaick, Mary Dinkins, Dan Monroe & Mike Winter.** 

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





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# Thank you!

Thank you to Peter Smith, Lisa Smith, Margaret Yoder, Mary Dinkins, Julie Barthels, Lori Potratz and Kim Winter for all of the hard work that went into the Soup2Go Fundraiser this year. We had a total profit of \$1871.00!!! Thank you to those of you who purchased soup. It was so yummy!!

Thank you to Dan & Leanne Monroe, Ron Golliher and Rene Rogers for doing the fall clean up around the property.

Thank you to **Ann Stark** for providing the children's activity bags.

Thank you to **Dennis & Karen Chapin, Mary Dinkins, Marilyn Morrison & Val Basler** for providing the set-up and clean up of coffee hour every Sunday. We appreciate everything you do to make it possible to share in fellowship on Sunday mornings.

We miss you Ray!! 😊

Thank you to **Quinn Bursack, Linda Stowe, Connie Whittaker & Julie Barthels** for leading us in worship as Liturgists.

Thank you to Leanne Monroe, Kim Winterie, Connie Whittaker & Rene Rogers for keeping everything clean throughout the building.

Thank you to **Jody Schaick, Leanne Monroe, Kim Winter, Cory Schultz, Zach Wolf, Noah Wilson, Paige Geiger & Craig Geiger** for running the projection system and video equipment during our worship services.

Thank you to **Jim Schaick** for taking care of the removal of the snowblower. Thank you also for picking up the sidewalk salt for the winter.

Thank you to all of our GREAT volunteers! We appreciate all of your help throughout the year!!!





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# **Coming Up**

Chime Choir - Wednesdays at 5:30p

Chancel Choir - Wednesdays at 6:30p

Confirmation Class - December 4, 2024 – 6:00p Confirmation Class - December 11, 2024 – 6:00p Confirmation Class - December 18, 2024 – 6:00p

**Sunday School -** Sunday, December 8, 2024 – 10:00am **Sunday School -** Sunday, December 22, 2024 – 9:00am Christmas Program

Church Council -Tuesday, December 10, 2024 – 6:30p

Oshkosh North Madrigals - Sunday, December 15, 2024 – 8:45a

Memorial/Endowment Meeting - Sunday, December 15, 2024 – 10:00am

**Annual Meeting Reports due January 12, 2025** 

**Annual Meeting –** Sunday, February 9, 2025 – 10:00am







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# **Memorials & Honorarium**

**November Memorial and Honorarium Report** 

In loving memory of RON GORCHELS

A gift to the **Memorial Fund** by

Ray Hitz

Joan McCormick

Marilyn Morrison

In loving memory of JOANN COSTELLO

A gift to the **Sunday School Program** by

Carla, Emmett and Natalie Norton

Pete & Karen Wettstein Allen & Carol Marheine Sandy Villalobos





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### **Church Council**

#### Church Council Meeting Highlights, November 13, 2024

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

President's Report: Candy Bars sale seems to be going alright; no official number, but last Sunday there were around 90 bars. SouptoGo profit came out to \$1871.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were accepted as printed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Reviewed October's reports. We had a negative cash flow of -\$7,872.35 with a positive YTD of \$2,179.08. Alliant Energy stock was -\$0.69 (1.14%), with a YTD +\$8.70 (16.96%) Majority of expenses for the month were City of Oshkosh - Sidewalk, Emp Pension & Andi's Health Ins, 3rd Qtr 2024 Fed & SS Payroll Taxes, VandeWalles and WPS.

Treasurer's report was accepted as printed. Food pantry allocation for 2025 to offset costs of running the pantry was set at \$2400 (\$200/mo). Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) allocation remains the same as last year, \$18500.

Pastor's Report: Confirmation is going well. It is a good group of kids. Sunday School Book Drive is going well. I dropped off a check last week that offered a \$5 book to every student at Jefferson. First Congregational has called Julie Eklund, formerly pastor at Redeemer UCC in Sussex. St Paul has called Sandra Crase as a part time interim. She is also a chaplain at Winnebago Mental Health Institute. Last Month: Visitation Ministry training Sunday, October 20 after church and Monday, October 21 at 11:00am went well. I have been asking folks as I visited if they would like some lay visits o and the response has been quite positive. I co-officiated with Kevin Mundell at the funeral of Marilyn Patrick at Our Savior's UCC in Ripon. This Month: Don Hoeft's funeral was here at EUCC on November 10, November 21 is our last Thursday service for the year, November 27 Thanksgiving Eve service, November 30 Decorate for Christmas For the Future: December 1 Hanging of the Greens service for the 1st Sunday of Advent, December 15 the ONHS Madrigals will be providing prelude music at 8:45am, December 22 is the Sunday School Christmas Program and December 24 Christmas Eve services at 3:00 and 5:00

Vice President's Report: Linda Stowe, a prospective council member, was invited to this and December's meetings.

**Deacon's Report:** Deb offered to step in as head Deacon.

**Trustee's Report:** The new sign in front of the building has been drawn up, and Tom brought the image to the council. Aside from correcting a typo in the number, the sign looks good to go forward with. The Fall Cleanup went well, thank you to all who helped out! The M&E allocated funds will go towards the new sign as well as a direct donation. The lights for the Sanctuary/Narthex are good to be ordered! M&E allocated monies will go toward that cost as well.

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**Old Business:** For the new VOIP phone system, looking at getting more information about going with Jeff Pullman-Becker to install the system, which would then be run through VOIP.MS. More information to be provided later, with the hope being early next year the installation process can start.

**New Business:** Budget Discussion: Salary Increase based on the CPI was 2.4406%, which was increased to both Andi's salary and housing allowance but all directed into her salary. Prospective custodian budget, in case one is hired, was included. Health Insurance portion of the budget it still TBD, with Andi and Kim looking at new health insurance plans. Paastor Andi's current health insurance is being looked at and compared to other marketplace options to see if there's a way to decrease how much is spent on it. More information between plans is still being looked at before a decision will be made. If a new plan is given, finding a way to adjust Pastor Andi's salary to reflect no longer providing health insurance through an employer while keeping government stipend will also need to be brainstormed.

The M&E gave their Annual Income Distribution Recommendation to be voted on by the council. Council approved the allocation and it will be sent to the Annual Meeting for a congregational vote.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is on December 10, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.





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**EMMANUEL DONATION AMOUNT** 

#### **POINSETTIA & EMMANUEL CHURCH DONATIONS**

We are offering the option of ordering a Poinsettia or making a donation to Emmanuel Church in honor or memory of a loved one this holiday season. If you are ordering a Poinsettia orders have to be in by December 1st with your payment. If you are making a donation to Emmanuel please have your donation in by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please Print your information clearly. Thank you!

Ρ	LEA	SE	PR	IN	I

IN MEMORY OF	
IN HONOR OF	
GIVEN BY	
POINSETTIA HOW MANY	_(\$12.00 EACH) AMOUNT

DEADLINE FOR POINSETTIA ORDERS IS DECEMBER 1st
DEADLINE FOR EMMANUEL DONATIONS IS DEC. 15th





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#### **CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS AT EAA CAMPGROUNDS**

The Celebration of Lights will be held once again at the EAA Campgrounds. We will need volunteers to help with the food collection from 5:00-9:00pm on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 THRU SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND. (Saturday is filled.) We have been asked to have volunteers there at 5:00pm with the lights starting at 5:30pm. There will be 2 booths that need to be manned on Wednesday, and Thursday night, with at least 2 people per booth. On Sunday and Friday there will be 3 booths to man. If you could volunteer for the entire 5-9pm shift that would be great! It is difficult to get a second shift into the area with all of the traffic coming in. We can try to split shifts, but it will be difficult. (Please note you could run later then 9pm depending on the amount of traffic.) If you have questions, please contact Henry Caron. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the church office (920-235-8340) or via email at office@emmanueloshkosh.org. Thanks!

#### **VANDEWALLES CANDY BARS ON SALE**

\$2 EACH OR 2 FOR \$3.00 Flavors available while supplies last - Toffee, Mint, Peanut Butter, Chocolate Truffle, Caramel, Caramel Nut, Milk Chocolate & Dark Chocolate. **They make great stocking stuffers!** 

### **GIVING ENVELOPES UPDATE**

2024 giving envelopes will be available for those of you still receiving envelopes throughout the month of December in the upper narthex.

### **THE CHRISTMAS FUND**

For over one hundred years, **The Christmas Fund** has provided direct financial assistance to the healers in all our lives: retired and active United Church of Christ ministers, church workers, and their families. In 2023, over 1,800 UCC congregations joined together to secure the physical, financial, and spiritual health of those engaged in the life of the church. Please use the envelope for The Christmas Fund located in this Lamplighter for your donations. Please remember to put your name on the envelope to insure proper credit to your account.

Recently a number of people have contacted Pastor about receiving a strange email asking for assistance. If you ever get an email or text asking for assistance from the church and it seems a bit 'off', please contact Pastor directly via her email, or text or call on her cell phone (even if the message says calls cannot be answered, leave a message). You can also call the church office. In the event that discretion is needed, Pastor would always contact you in person or in a phone call to allow for better communication.

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#### **CHURCH STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

We are once again offering the opportunity to express our thanks to the staff at Emmanuel by participating in the "Free Will White Envelope Offering". Please include your name on the outside of the envelope in this Lamplighter for proper credit to your account. Please list the names of the employees on the outside of the envelope and how you want the gift divided. If there are no names listed, the gift will be divided equally among all the employees of the church.

The employees are as follows:

Pastor Andi Pastor

Mary Dinkins Music Director

Lori Holland Administrative Assistant

It is our wish that this will give you a way to express your thanks for their help, support, caring and spiritual strength throughout the year.

The Church Council

### **EMMANUEL'S "GIVING TREE"**

This special tree was originally called "The Bunny Tree"...then "The Mitten Tree" – sponsored by Daughters of Sarah. Renamed as the "Giving Tree," it will be located in the lower narthex, and again be collecting warm weather items for members of our community in need for the upcoming winter weather and will be given at Christmas.

If you knit, warm scarves are always appreciated. Men's items most often needed are warm socks and/or gloves and hats. (Hint: Goodwill stores have brand new packs of thermal socks on sale) Colorful scarves, mittens/gloves were given to a local school last year, where they were given to children who had none. Father Carr's Place To Be has been a recipient of women's and children's items over the years, but wherever they go, our gifts are always very much appreciated.

Items can be dropped off with The Tree Gals...Carolyn, Marilyn or Valeria at Sunday's Fellowship Hour...put in the Lower Level Narthex closet...or give them to Mary Dinkins or Lori in the office. They will be put under the tree as soon as it's up!!

Thank you in advance for your help in making the holidays a little brighter (and warmer) for our neighbors!!

When planning your holiday shopping, you also can check the Day By Day Warming Shelter's Wish List...and remember our own Food Pantry!!

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### We will have Eaton's Pizza Coupons on sale again!

Each \$9.00 coupon will be good for one 12" single topping pizza, or the coupon can be put toward any pizza you choose to order. The Eaton's Pizza Coupons will be available mid-December in the church office. Pick up a coupon and get some pizzas for your New Year's Eve celebration!

#### **MEET OUR 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL**

President – Leanne Monroe Vice President – Dan Rogers
Treasurer – Rene Rogers Secretary – Zach Wolf
Trustee – Craig Geiger Trustee – Tom Stark
Trustee – Jim Schaick Trustee – Noah Wilson
Deacon – Debra Kraemer Deacon – Earl Dorst

Thank you for sharing your time and talent with Emmanuel!

Deacon – Linda Stowe

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Deacon – Laurie Dorst

Please remember, if you have a prayer request you can enter it on our website at <u>www.emmnaueloshkosh.org</u>. 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 <a href="mailto:office@emmanueloshkosh.org">office@emmanueloshkosh.org</a> 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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## **Miscellaneous**

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.

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