



Emmanuel

United Church of Christ

1306 Michigan Street
Oshkosh, WI 54902
920.235.8340
emmanueloshkosh.org

the lamplighter

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



ANNUAL MEETING



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025 | 10:05AM | IN THE SANCTUARY

****AGENDA****

1. Recognition of Church Council
2. Approval of Non-Financial Reports
3. Approval of 2024 Financial Reports
4. Old Business
5. Approval of Budget for 2025
6. Good & Welfare

Please Come and Join Us!

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In Confirmation class, we have spent a little bit of time talking about the difference between something being biblical and being Christlike. How we read scripture matters, and just because something is 'in the bible' doesn't mean it should be an ideal that guides our actions. Writer, Jordan Harrell, warned about how our lens can alter the story we get when reading scripture. She quoted a part of Rachel Held Evans's book "Inspired"; 'So the question we have to ask ourselves is this; are we reading (scripture) with the prejudice of love, with Christ as our model, or are we reading with the prejudices of judgment and power, self-interest and greed? Are we seeking to enslave or liberate, burden, or set free?'

Is there a difference between something being biblical and Christlike?

There sure is! Jordan writes:

Slavery is biblical.

Chain breaking is biblical.

BUT ONLY ONE IS CHRISTLIKE.

Patriarchy is biblical.

Countercultural elevation of women is biblical.

BUT ONLY ONE IS CHRISTLIKE

Retributive violence is biblical.

Grace-filled restoration is biblical.

BUT ONLY ONE IS CHRISTLIKE.

Segregation is biblical.

Unity is biblical.

BUT ONLY ONE IS CHRISTLIKE.

Christ transforms, not the Bible.

Be wary of those who know one but not the other.

This is not meant to minimize the sacredness of scripture, but to remind us it is only one of many tools that our God uses to reach us, to teach us, and to guide us. At the end of the day, our understanding of who God is and why Christ came to dwell among us, will deeply influence our understanding of our call. Are we called to love people, or are we called to judge people? Are we called to be filled with grace, or are we called to be filled with disdain? It is long past the time for the church to be transformed by Christ and boldly read and interpret scripture through the lens of grace, mercy, and love. For indeed, Christ most certainly is biblical. But not all things biblical are of Christ. Peace and grace in 2025 as we live and minister in the name of our Christ, who came not to judge us (and the rest of the world) but to save us. His is the example we follow.

Pastor Andi

pastor.andi@emmanueloshkosh.org

*"When we seek to discover the best in others,
we somehow bring out the best in ourselves."
-William Arthur Ward*

Ushers for this month

FEBRUARY USHER SCHEDULE

- Sunday, February 2 – Ron & Sandra Golliher
- Sunday, February 9 – Dan & Rene Rogers
- Sunday, February 16 – Brad & Liz Schultz
- Sunday, February 23 – Mike & Alice Peppler

We are always looking for help with ushering. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 920-235-8340. Thank you!

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Treasurer's Nook

Happy New Year Everyone.

This past month, our income was higher than our expenses, leaving us with a monthly positive cashflow of \$12,733 but still leaving us with year-to-date deficit results of (\$1,751). This holiday season we brought in almost double in the amount of total income. But our expenses for the year to date ended up being higher.

Thank you to everyone that supports us through your regular giving, various fund raisers, giving of your time and talents and ongoing prayers.

December 2024 Results

| The Numbers | Monthly Budget | Monthly Actual | YTD Budget | YTD Actual |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| Direct Giving | 17,071 | 33,627 | 204,300 | 210,574 |
| Other Income | 7,652 | 8,141 | 59,300 | 52,744 |
| Total Income | 24,723 | 41,768 | 03.,600 | 263,318 |
| Total Expenses | 25,468 | 29,034 | 276,068 | 265,068 |
| Cashflow/(Deficit) | (745) | 12,733 | (12,468) | (1,751) |

Rene Rogers
Rene Rogers
Treasurer

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RaiseRight – Gift Cards

RAISERIGHT GIFT CARD ORDERS ARE DUE ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025

We will let you know when your gift cards are available for pick up. Please remember we also have a limited supply of gift cards available on Sunday mornings or weekday mornings in the church office.

Check out all of the gift card options. There is a gift card for everything you will need, and Emmanuel gets a percentage back from every card we sell! So, please consider picking up an order blank and ordering gift cards today for grocery shopping, gas and many other things.

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



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Thank you to everyone who brought in soup during the month of January. ***During the month of February, we are asking for canned pasta meals.***

77 families were helped during the month of December. 148 adults and 116 children were served. 11 families were new to our pantry. Approximately 8085 pounds of food was distributed. Thank you for your continued support!

Thank you to our volunteers for their contribution of time and talents to the food pantry. Thank you to **HENRY CARON, RAY HITZ, GAIL HABLE, SHERRY PEPPLER, SANDY FOLSKE, DEB KRAEMER, LISA SMITH, MARY DINKINS, PETER SMITH, JODY SCHAICK, JIM SCHAICK, RICK PEPPLER, MIKE WINTER AND DAN MONROE.** We would also like to thank **SALLY CARON** for her help with the Celebration of Lights collection in December.

We would like to thank **RED'S PIGGLY WIGGLY, JAY KOEPKE AND FESTIVAL FOODS AND KARMALI'S BAR & GRILL** for their continued support of our food pantry. If you shop at Piggly Wiggly in Oshkosh, check out the donation box in the front of the store. Anything purchased and placed in that box is donated to Emmanuel! How great is that?!!

We are always in need of extra help in the food pantry. If you would like to volunteer but aren't quite sure if it is the right fit for you, we welcome you to check it out on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday morning between 8am and 10am to see how things are done. There is an opportunity to volunteer for any amount of time you wish to help. Please consider volunteering today!



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Thank you

- Thank you to **DENNIS & KAREN CHAPIN, MARY DINKINS, MARILYN MORRISON & VAL BASLER** for continuing to make coffee hour happen for us so we are able to enjoy some time in fellowship after worship.
- Thank you to **QUINN BURSACK, DEB KRAEMER, LEANNE MONROE & CONNIE WHITTAKER** for leading us in worship as Liturgists.
- Thank you to **CRAIG GEIGER, LEANNE MONROE, JODY SCHAICK, CORY SCHULTZ, LISA SMITH & KIM WINTER** for running the projector/live stream during worship.
- Thank you to **LISA SMITH** for updating the website features.
- Thank you to **KIM WINTER, LEANNE MONROE, CONNIE WHITTAKER & RENE ROGERS** for keeping everything clean throughout the building.
- Thank you to **JIM SCHAICK & GAIL HABLE** for help with snow removal.
- Thank you Ray! 😊
- Thank you to **LISA & GERRY KEULER, MARY DINKINS, TOM & CANDY STARK, JEFF & ANN STARK, VALERIA BASLER, MARILYN MORRISON, CAROLYN RUKAS, GAIL HABLE, RAY HITZ** for helping with taking down the Christmas decorations and getting the church back in order.
- Thank you to **ANN STARK** for providing the children's activity bags.



The "Tree Girls" would like to thank everyone who so generously donated to The Giving Tree. Lots of warm adult items went to the Day-By-Day Warming Shelter, while small scarves, hats and mittens went to several schools for children who came without...and some went to Father Carr's. All were very much appreciated. (Just so you know, we are planning this again next year...and this is the perfect time to find sales on these items. They can be put in our donation bag in the lower narthex closet all year!)

Thanks again!! Marilyn, Carolyn & Valeria

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CHIME CHOIR REHEARSAL

Wednesday | 5:30p

CONFIRMATION

Wednesday | 6:00p

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Wednesday | 6:30p

THURSDAY NIGHT WORSHIP RESUMES

Thursday, February 6, 2025 | 6:30p

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 9, 2025 | 10:05a

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

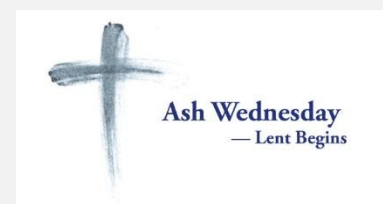
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 | 6:30p

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, February 9, 2025 | 10:00a

Sunday, February 23, 2025 | 10:00a

Lent Begins on Wednesday, March 5, 2025



Church Council

Church Council Meeting Highlights January 14, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:28 p.m. by Leanne. Opening prayer by Pastor Andi.

President's Report: Candy Bar Sales--57 candy bars left. Last call will be put out in the Lamplighter. Pizza Coupons—Leanne wondered if a sign might help with sales. Herald Advertising—The ad was hard to read. Adjustments were made so hopefully it is legible. Christmas Eve Service—it was brought up that it was still light at 3:00 for the candlelight service. Do we want to make changes to service times? Council agreed to keep current Christmas Eve service times.

Secretary's Report: Minutes accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed December financial reports. We had a positive cash flow of \$12,733.41 with a positive YTD of \$10,185.22. Alliant Energy stock was - \$0.69, or -1.14% this month, with a YTD of +\$8.70 or 16.96%. Major expenses for the month were Employee Pension and Health Insurance, GuideOne Church Insurance, OCWM, payroll taxes and WPS. Also of note, the Herald Ad was paid through a member donation. Treasurers Report accepted as printed.

Pastor's Report: Last Month: December 15 we celebrated the baptism of Melanie Reyes, daughter of Rigo and Emily Reyes. Thank you to Peter Smith who led worship in my absence. December 22 we had the Sunday School program, and I thought it went great. I love this service! I was able to transport the Peace Light to worship for the December 22 and Christmas Eve, and December 29 services. Christmas Eve services went well but highlighted some 'behind the scenes' issues. There are a lot of moving parts that just seem to get covered. I think we need to start exploring a Worship Committee who will help make sure all the details of special services are covered, as well as finding new ways to enhance weekly worship.

This Month: January 2--Clergy Support Group, January 3--officiated at Andy Qualley's funeral, January 21--Communities of Practice group, January 26--Memorial and Endowment Meets.

For the Future: February 6 is our first Thursday Service of 2025. February 9 is our Annual Meeting. We need to reach out to the Sunday School, so they are aware as this is a Sunday School Week. March 5 is Ash Wednesday. I plan to have a service with Imposition of Ashes. I plan to do a Lenten book or Bible study on Wednesdays around lunchtime. Weekly Lenten service attendance has really declined over the past 2 years, so I am inclined to not offer that this year. I am open to a mid-Lent service on March 26 if people would like. We will have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services.

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Church Council Meeting Highlights January 14, 2025 Continued

Vice President's Report: Linda Stowe received her key and a code so all is set. We will show her how to use the system. Key inventory is done so the electronic key log just needs to be updated.

Deacon's Report: 2025 Schedule for paraments and communion is done. List of Duties/job description has been given to all the deacons.

Trustee's Report: There is an issue with the ceiling fans in the sanctuary. It is fine when only one fan is running. Tom is problem-solving and has a plan. Tom has been changing vacuum cleaner plugs.

Old Business: Phone System Replacement –motion made to move forward with the system. Health Insurance Update-Pastor elected to stay with UCC insurance and encouraged the council to look into small business offered insurance. 2025 Budget--Kim walked us through the 2025 budget, explaining the thought process she and Rene shared. Budget was approved to be sent to the congregation for their approval.

Approved Memorial and Endowment request to close the UCC Scholarship fund and move those to undesignated fund. Approved Memorial and Endowment new member, Sherri Annis. Acknowledged Jeff Stark as Memorial and Endowment treasurer, vesting him with the authority to carry out all duties as such.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is on February 11, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

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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 |
| Rene Rogers | Dan Rogers |
| Debra Kraemer | Earl Dorst |
| Linda Stowe | Laurie Dorst |
| Craig Geiger | Noah Wilson |
| Tom Stark | Jim Schaick |

Memorial/Endowment Committee:

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Jeff Stark | Ann Stark |
| Deb Bartel | Sherri Annis |
| 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.

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EATON'S PIZZA COUPON SALE

Each Eaton's Pizza Coupon is \$9.00. This coupon is good for one 12" single topping pizza, or the coupon can be put toward any pizza you choose to order. The pizza coupons are available in the church office or Sunday mornings in the lower narthex. **We will be selling the coupons until February 9th.** Get your coupons today and enjoy a yummy Eaton's pizza!!



2024 GIVING STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE UPPER NARTHEX

If you would like to have your statement emailed or mailed to you, please contact the church office, 920-235-8340 or by email at office@emmanueloshkosh.org.

VandeWalle Candy Bar Update...

We have a limited supply of candy bars still available for sale in the church office. (If you would like a candy bar on Sunday morning, please find a council member and they will help you out.) They are \$2.00 each or 2 for \$3.00. The following flavors are currently available, Dark Chocolate, Toffee, Chocolate Truffle, Caramel, Caramel Nut and Peanut Butter. If you get a chocolate craving, stop in any weekday morning and stock up!

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 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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We have many volunteer opportunities throughout the church. We hope that one of these areas would be something of interest to you, and you would find the time to help us out.

FOOD PANTRY – We have some immediate needs in the food pantry in January, February and March. We need help with answering the phones from 8am until 9:30am. Also, help with getting the carts ready for distribution as well as handing them out to those who come for a pick up.

Distribution is done as curbside pick-up. Everything is usually completed by 10am. The pantry is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. If any of this interests you, please talk to Henry Caron or Lori in the church office.

LITURGISTS – Your help is needed assisting in worship as a reader. Pastor Andi can explain what this entails.

WORKING WITH THE PROJECTION SYSTEM – We need help running the Projector and the Video Equipment during worship. We would be happy to help you learn. You can sit in on the services and see how things are done, and if you feel comfortable you can pick a Sunday and help us out! If you have questions, please ask Cory Schultz, Leanne Monroe or Kim Winter what needs to be done.

CLEANING – Are you one of those people who love to clean?!!! Well we have a building that needs cleaning! You can sign up for as little or as much as you would like to do. You can come in week day mornings when you have some spare time and get the tasks done. If you have questions on what needs to be done, you can ask Kim Winter or Leanne Monroe and they will find what works best for you.



Melanie Cheryl Reyes was baptized on Sunday, December 15, 2024. Melanie is the daughter of Rigo & Emily Reyes. May God continue to bless Melanie and her family.

Click [HERE](#) for our online calendar.

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