EMMANUE 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.



We are honoring Emmanuel's High School & College Graduates on Sunday, June 8th at 9:00am

Congratulations CORRADUM NO REAL

May God continue to bless you as you embark on this new journey.



Ushers

Treasurer's Nook

RaiseRight

- Food Pantry
- Thank you!
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Pastor Andi's Message

Summer 2025

Way back in the time of Moses, after he led the people out of Egypt and across the divinely divided Red Sea, the Israelites found themselves camped out at the foot of Mount Sinai. Moses was spending more and more time up on the mountain in the presence of Yahweh. To the Israelites, he was spending too much time, and they began to get scared. Afraid he wasn't coming back, they went to Aaron and asked him to make some new gods for them—gods that would go before them and lead them out of this wilderness. So, they gathered all the gold from the ears of the people and Aaron formed it into the image of a calf. The people gathered around this golden calf and had one heck of a celebration. Their real God, Yahweh, who had led them out of Egyptian slavery and through the Red Sea was done with them. Moses reasoned with God and God let go of the wrath originally planned. But when Moses saw with his own eyes what the people had done, he, too, was livid! That stupid golden calf: it pulled the people's attention away from what God had done for them. That ridiculous golden calf: formed because people were afraid and wanted something—anything really—to hold on to. That cursed golden calf that caused the people of God to sin a great sin.

You know, it wasn't the golden calf's fault, it was the people's fault. And sadly, we still cling to our own golden calves today. There are all these shiny, expensive things that pull our eyes—and attention—away from what God has called us to do. Precious traditions can push our minds and emotions in a direction God is not calling us to go. A lack of understanding, and an unwillingness to open our minds a little so we can understand, calls us to behave in ways that are not pleasing in the sight of God. And, of course, there is fear. Just as the Israelite's were afraid, we are too. And that fear, stoked by evil, can move us in ways we never imagined. Fear that we won't have enough. Fear that someone is going to get something we didn't get (or need). Fear that our way of life isn't going to be honored. Fear that 'those people' will take over (now, 'those people' can include all sorts of human being created and loved by God, they just don't live life the way we do or worship the way we do or belong here like we do). Fear feeds the worst in us, until one day we are dancing around a fire in front of an altar holding a golden calf. When the realization hits us that we have sinned a great sin, we will lament and cry aloud, wondering how we got to this place.

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I don't know what your golden calf might be. But I sure hope you have the faith and the strength to figure that out. If we don't, that great sin will not only weigh down our souls, it might wreck lives in the process. So, I suggest you keep the gold in your ears and rest your spirits in the call to love. We are still going to want shiny and expensive things. Just make sure your desire to have more doesn't come at the cost of someone else having just the basics. We are still going to cling to our traditions and the comfortable things in life that offer us a safe space. Just make sure your comforting traditions doesn't mean others can't find theirs in new ways. We are not always going to understand the reasoning of these other generations. That has been a reality since the beginning of time. We can simultaneously respect another's values, ideas and lifestyles while feeling ours are best for us. Sin occurs when we try to force others to accept our ways. And fear will always be a part of our lives. But faith in our God—Creator, Christ and Spirit—holds that fear at bay. When we lose trust in God to continue to be our God, we turn to our golden calf that tells us it is ok to treat others with hate, disdain, scorn, and apathy. And how we treat one another matters. It matters so much that in the hours before Jesus died on the cross, he told us that if we remember nothing else, remember this new commandment—love one another.

Yeah—keep that gold in your ears and rest your spirits in the call to love. Amen.

Pastor Audi pastor.andi@emmanueloshkosh.org





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Ushers for the Summer

We recently added Ushering to Sign-up Genius on our website. This will give anyone the opportunity to sign up for any given day to help with ushering. Currently we have the same rotation of ushers that have volunteered, however, we would welcome anyone wishing to sign up. You can still call the church office to be put on the schedule as well. Please prayerfully consider signing up to be an usher at any time.

JUNE USHER SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 1 – Ron & Sandra Golliher Sunday, June 8 – Dan & Rene Rogers Sunday, June 15 – Brad & Liz Schultz Sunday, June 22 – Volunteers are needed! – Please sign up! Sunday, June 29 – Volunteers are needed! - Please sign up!

JULY USHER SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 6 – Ron & Sandra Golliher Sunday, July 13 – Dan & Rene Rogers Sunday, July 20 – Brad & Liz Schultz Sunday, July 27 – Volunteers are needed! – Please sign up!





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Treasurer's Nook

As the temperatures start to rise and more people are enjoying the outdoors. April cash flow ended with a deficit (5,112) with the year to date cash flow at a deficit (1,882).

Thank you to all that participated in the Raise Right program which will also have carwash cards for sale to help keep your cars clean through the spring and summer. Also, another way to use the Raise Right program is to get a script card for Menards, Lowes or Fleet Farm as we start to plant flowers and get the gardens ready. If you have any questions regarding the Raise Right program stop at the desk before the service on Sunday morning or give our office a call.

April 2025 Results

The Numbers	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Direct Giving	18,242	16,783	70,265	77,633
Other Income	3,839	820	16,560	9,637
Total Income	22,081	17,603	86,825	87,270
Total Expenses	24,242	22,714	90,269	89,152
Cashflow/(Deficit)	(2,161)	(5,112)	(3,444)	(1,882)

Rene Rogers

Rene Rogers Treasurer

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Please use the envelope enclosed in this Lamplighter for your donation. The offering will be collected on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th. Thank you!

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RaiseRight – Gift Cards

We will be placing another gift card order on Sunday, June 1st and Sunday, July 6th.

There are gift cards for every occasion!! Check out the order blanks on the gift card table in the lower narthex. We also have a limited supply of certain gift cards available on a daily basis. Purchasing your gift cards here at church is a convenient way to plan ahead, place your order and pick them up all in one place! We will give you a call or email when your gift cards have arrived.

Thank you to **Leanne Monroe & Lisa Smith** for managing the program and making it available to us. Thank you also to **Margaret Yoder & Sandy Golliher** for your help selling the cards on Sunday mornings.







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Food Pantry

Food Pantry Update...

During the month of April, we served 105 families. 14 were new to our pantry. We served 186 adults and 133 children. 11,025 pounds of food was distributed.

In May we started our additional shift on Wednesday afternoons. We are still in need of people to volunteer to help with this shift. Calls would need to be answered between 3:00pm and 4:30pm with food distribution from 4:30-5:00pm. We are also in need of volunteers to cover our other shifts as well. We need someone to answer the phones and help with the distribution of food on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Phones are answered from 8:00-9:30am with distribution from 9:30-10am. We currently have an amazing group of volunteers who have



Summer 2025

agreed to fill in where they are needed, however, with people having surgery, or going on vacation we are depending on them to work more then one day a week. If we had more volunteers, you wouldn't have to work every week. Please prayerfully consider helping us provide for those in need in our community.

Thank you to our volunteers for your continued support of our pantry. Thank you to Henry Caron, Ray Hitz, Gail Hable, Sherry Peppler, Sandy Folske, Carol Wiechman, Deb Kraemer, Lisa Smith, Kim Winter, Mike Winter, Rick Peppler, Lee Yoder, Peter Smith, Jody Schaick, Jim Schaick and Dan Monroe.

Thank you to Red's Piggly Wiggly, Jay Koepke and Festival Foods, Craig Geiger and Almprint and Silver Creek Meats for your continued support of our pantry.

The Letter Carrier Food Drive held on May 10th was a great success! We received 5,200 pounds of food!! Thank you to everyone who donated food for this food drive. Thank you also to the following people for helping with the collecting and sorting of the food we received:

Pastor Andi Hannah Wolf Meg Hable **Carol Wiechman Margaret Yoder** Lisa Smith Lori Holland John Moon

Ray Hitz

Henry Caron Dan Monroe Mark Holland Debbie Moon

Sally Caron Leanne Monroe **Amy Holland** Karen Chapin

Gail Hable **Peter Smith Gavin Holland Jody Schaick**





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Thank you

- Thank you to **Craig Geiger, Jody Schaick, Noah Wilson, Kim Winter, Leanne Monroe, Cory Schultz, Lisa Smith, Becca Wolf, Zach Wolf & Sam Uelmen** for running the projector and live streaming the worship services.
- Thank you to Quinn Bursack, Deb Kraemer, Leanne Monroe and Linda Stowe for doing the readings during worship.
- Thank you to **Carol Wiechman** for your help with replenishing the pew cards, envelopes and pencils in the pews.
- Thank you to **Cory Schultz** for updating our coffee hour tv and Facebook page.
- Thank you to Lisa Smith for updating our website.
- Thank you to **Dennis & Karen Chapin, Mary Dinkins, Val Basler & Marilyn Morrison** for setting up and cleaning up after coffee hour.
- Thank you Ray!! 😊
- Thank you to Ann Stark for providing the children's activity bags.
- Thank you to Jim Schaick for mowing the lawn.
- Thank you to **Leanne Bloedow** for maintaining the outdoor planters. We appreciate your sharing your time and talent with Emmanuel! Leanne will be planting real flowers and maintaining them throughout the summer. There won't be a need for anyone else to water them, she will take care of it.

If anyone would like to make a donation to offset the cost of the outdoor flowers as well as the altar flowers, you may do so at any time. If you donate to the outdoor flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, your donation will be listed in the Lamplighter. If you choose to donate money towards the altar flowers, we would list that donation in the bulletin for the Sunday that you have requested. Please put your donation in the offering and label it "altar flowers" or "outdoor flowers" and who it is in honor or memory of.





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Sunday, June 8, 2025 Graduation Recognition, 9:00am

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 Church Council Meeting, 6:30pm *No meeting in July*

Sunday, June 29, 2025 Noisy Collection benefitting our Sunday School Mission Project, 9:00am

MARY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Mary Bruce Dinkins has been ministering through her music for over 50 years! That is a major accomplishment, and we want to celebrate it! June 29th we will gather to worship and celebrate how Mary has welcomed the Spirit in music and song since 1975. After worship we will have a reception in the fellowship hall.



YOU are a part of this celebration, and we are trying to keep some of the festivities a **SECRET**. We are putting together a few things, and we need your input. The day will be about Mary, but what matters is the way she has touched the lives of our people. Please reach out to the church office about how you can help us make this day even more memorable for Mary. And then once you know-share it with others (just not Mary!) And then mark your calendar and join us in worship at 9:00am and in celebration of Mary's ministry afterwards.

Tuesday, July 15, 2025 Memorial/Endowment Meeting, 6:30pm





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We would like to thank the Sunday school teachers for volunteering their time and talents to our Sunday school children.

Thank you to Bachel Debne, Becca Wolf, Penny Schumann, Candy Stark and Pastor Andi

Thank you to **Rachel Dehne, Becca Wolf, Penny Schumann, Candy Stark and Pastor Andi.** We appreciate all that you did this school year to make the students learning experience a positive one.

We would also like to thank **Kay Lund** for her many years in the role of Sunday school Superintendent. She has decided to retire as our superintendent. Kay has donated a lot of time and energy to the program. Thank you, Kay, for your dedication and service to our Sunday school program.

Emily Reyes has agreed to be the new Sunday school Superintendent. Thank you, Emily! We look forward to working with you in the new school year.

If you would like to volunteer to be a Sunday school teacher, please reach out to Pastor Andi or call the church office. We could really use more teachers to help provide a great Sunday school experience.



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Church Council Meeting MinutesMay 13, 2025Meeting called to order at by Leanne. Opening prayer by Pastor Andi.

President's Report: Qdoba update \$242.77 was earned. Discussed Mary's recognition on 6/29/25. Altar flower fund to replace artificial flower replacement/purchases for indoor and outdoor arrangements will be funded through flower sponsorship--"this week the flowers are sponsored for xyz by xyz"

Secretary's Report: Attendance was corrected and minutes were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed April financial reports. We had a negative cash flow of \$5,111.58 with a negative YTD of \$1,881.60. Majority of expenses for the month were Andi's Health, Guide One Insurance, 1st quarter Fed & SS Payroll Taxes, WPS-Gas and Electric, Organ Repair. Treasurer's report was accepted as printed.

Pastor's Report: General: May 5 was our first High School Youth Group meeting. I hope to do these each month. Emily Reyes has volunteered to be Sunday School Superintendent. I anticipate Mary to be out for a little bit as she recovers and gains her strength back. I will leave it up to her as to when she returns. This Month: May 14 is the final Confirmation Class. May 20 I will be out of the office. I will be at First Congregation Church in Sheboygan for my last Communities of Practice meeting of the season. May 24 we have a Memorial service for Connie Cook. I have invited Bishop Haywood to participate/officiate. May 24 is Ron Gorchels' Celebration of Life at South Park. May 25 we will have the baptism of Ronan DesJarlais, son of Alex and Morgan (Stinemates) DesJarlais. I have invited Jeff Pommerening to officiate with me.

Trustee's Report: Lawn/weed control - Things are slowly receding. Weed care was/is covered. Tuckpoint repair, cross repair are both things to look at down the road, on the radar. Building maintenance needs: Carpet shampooed, when can we do this? Need volunteers, Waxing the floors? How will we do this and maintain it? Choose a window cleaning day and just get it done.

Old Business: Phone/ Alarm completed. The custodian contract with Connie Whittaker is signed and things are going well!





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May 13, 2025 Continued

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New Business: Culvers Dine/Donate is on the 19th. EAA Parking is good to go for July! Ron Golliher will be asked if he wants to lead this again. Check with Jeff Bartels about parking rate. Children's Parade request - August 2nd. Ask if Emily she/Sunday School wants to do something. Bench donation from Jerry Gorchels was accepted. A motion to accept the donation of the bench made by Rene, seconded by Tom.

Good & Welfare: Thank-you card from Lori for Administrative Professionals' Day gifts.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is on June 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.



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We are still collecting metal tabs from beverage cans for the Ronald McDonald House in Wisconsin. You can bring them in and drop them off in the office or in the little white church in the upper narthex. Thank you to **EARL & LAURIE DORST** for picking up and delivering these to St. Paul.



Do you have a concern you would like offered up in prayer? You can enter your request on our website at emmanueloshkosh.org. You can also call the church office at 920-235-8340 any weekday morning.



Are you having a procedure or surgery in the near future? Please contact the church office (920-235-8340) and let us know. Pastor Andi would like to make sure she is there for you and your family. If you mention it on a Sunday morning, she might forget. Due to HIPAA the hospital is not allowed to call and let us know if you are a patient or not. Thank you for your help!



As pre-worship time gets increasingly hectic, a reminder that if you have a prayer concern that is very important for you to share, please write it down and give it to Pastor Andi at least 10 minutes before worship begins, or place it on the pulpit. Thank you!

Kwik Trip

WE STILL HAVE KWIK TRIP CAR WASH CARDS AVAILABLE The price of each car wash card is \$40. This is good for 5 ultimate car washes. Pick up your card today! Your car will be happy!!





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COMMUNITY BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR AUGUST 13 & 14, 2025

The Oshkosh Community Back to School Fair (BTSF) Committee is preparing for the 27th annual fair held at Oshkosh North High School on August 13th and 14th.

The committee would like to assist over 1200 students get ready for the 2025/26 school year. The students will be supplied with school supplies, shoes, a new shirt, pants & hygiene items to begin the school year. Agencies and school system staff members work on a committee and they refer students who need assistance.

Emmanuel will once again participate in collecting clothing for the Back to School Fair. In July we will have a Christmas tree in the upper narthex. On the tree will be backpack tags with the gender and clothing size of a student, and clothing suggestions. We invite you to pick a tag off of the tree, purchase the item listed on the tag, bring it back to church **unwrapped** and place them under the tree. Donated items will be picked up by volunteers during the month of July. **The final pick up date will be August 4**th.

The tags will also include an optional cash donation which is used to supplement the donated clothing items. Checks should be made payable to the **Oshkosh Back to School Fair.** Checks can be enclosed in an envelope along with the backpack tag and placed under the tree as well.

Please remember to pick a tag off of the tree and support a child for the 2025/26 school year. If we can make a difference for good in the life of just one of these students, we will be pursuing our commission to "love one another".





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EMMANUEL WILL BE PARKING CARS FOR EAA JULY 21 – JULY 27

We would like to thank **Jeff & MaryAnn Bartels** for allowing us to park cars on their property during EAA. We will be parking cars the week of July 21st. Volunteers will be needed to help park cars every morning as well as afternoons on the days there are bigger air shows scheduled.

Further updates will be available in upcoming church bulletins. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office. This fundraiser is a HUGE boost to our general fund. Last year we raised \$21,827!! Please consider volunteering. It is an opportunity to be outside, see the air show, and meet people from around the world!





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We will be placing another brick order in June. If you would like to order a brick to be placed in the labyrinth this summer, please use the form below.

The bricks that are available are in the 4x8 size

Three lines, 11 characters per line including spaces

The cost per brick is \$60.00 (this includes engraving and return postage)

If you would like to purchase a brick in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the order blank below. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 920-235-8340 or by email at <u>office@emmanueloshkosh.org</u>.

# of Bricks	Honor, Memory of or	First Name(s)	Last Name

Please include your name:____

Number of bricks you would like to purchase_____

Amount Due_____





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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:

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Treasurer's Nook	Leanne Monroe	Zach Wolf	
	Rene Rogers	Dan Rogers	
<u>RaiseRight</u>	Debra Kraemer	Earl Dorst	
Food Pantry	Linda Stowe	Laurie Dorst	
Thank you!	Craig Geiger	Noah Wilson	
	Tom Stark	Jim Schaick	
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Sunday School	Memorial/Endowment Committe		
Margariala 8 Llanararium	Jeff Stark	Ann Stark	
Memorials & Honorarium	Deb Bartel	Sherri Annis	

Memorial/Endowment Committee:		Pastoral Relations Committee:		
Jeff Stark	Ann Stark	Sandra Golliher	Kay Lund	
Deb Bartel	Sherri Annis	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 **<u>HERE</u>** for our online calendar.



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Additional Resources

We'd love to hear from you! Click <u>here</u> to give us your feedback.

Visit us on social media.

