



# 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.



# TRUNK OR TREAT!

Sunday, October 26, 2025 | 10:00am

**Children can dress in their costumes after worship followed by trick or treating in the parking lot.**

**We invite everyone to decorate their vehicles and have treats in your trunks.**

# Pastor Andi's Message

October 2025

James, the brother of Jesus, warned us in his epistle about the power of our words. He compared it to a rudder on a ship that controls us. He called it a flame of evil at work in our lives that contaminates our entire lives. He said the tongue is set on fire by the flames of hell. I am pretty sure James would not have repeated the old adage, 'sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.' Instead, he would remind us that yes, sticks and stones can physically do us harm, but the words we use can consume and destroy all that is good within and around us.

He writes that we bless our God and curse other humans with the same mouth, and it shouldn't be that way, for a single spring does not bring forth both fresh and salt water.

James, the brother of Jesus, is preaching to the people of that age—and us. It amazes me that people who preach the importance of discipline in their relationship to God do not seem to think that includes the speech they choose. But James, the brother of Jesus, reminds us that it does. Words don't just hurt our feelings; they chip away at the very foundation of humanity. Our words tell the people around us what fills our hearts and spirits. Words can build us up and make us stronger, or they can break us down and make us feel less than. What do the words you share (especially about those with whom you disagree) say about you?

We are called to not simply worship Jesus but bend our lives to be more like him. Are the words we, as individuals and as the church universal, like the words Jesus used? People should have a difficult time telling the difference between what Jesus said about sinners, tax collectors and those who are outcasts, and what we say about them.

This walk of discipleship is not just about getting a golden ticket to paradise, but about doing the will of God (as we understand it through the teachings of Jesus) here on earth just as it is done in heaven. Are we, as individuals and as the church universal, using our words to sow peace and mercy, love and grace—or are our words sowing discord, unrest, and the seeds of evil?

Time will tell. Time always tells. We can control the narrative today...but time will tell. So, pay attention to your words, because I am pretty sure God is. Use them wisely and well. And know undisciplined tongues are dangerous—James called them a restless evil, full of deadly poison. As the followers of Jesus may we commit ourselves anew to taming this tongue of ours; even when it is difficult. Actually—especially when it is difficult!

*Pastor Andi*

[pastor.andi@emmanueloshkosh.org](mailto:pastor.andi@emmanueloshkosh.org)

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## Ushers

You can sign up for ushering on our website in the “get Involved” Section. You can also call the church office if you are interested in ushering.

Please consider signing up!

### SEPTEMBER USHER SCHEDULE

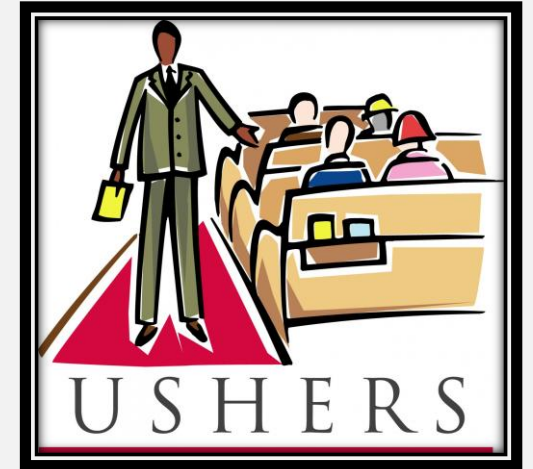
Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> – Ron & Sandy Gollither

Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> – Dan & Rene Rogers

Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – Brad & Liz Schultz

Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> – *Volunteers Needed*

Would you like to be an Usher? Please sign up online at Get Involved on our website, [emmanueloshkosh.org](http://emmanueloshkosh.org).



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## Treasurer's Nook

October 2025

August cash flow is a negative for the month (\$6,032). With a year-to-date negative cash flow of (\$4,490).

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 fall. Also, a couple of fund raisers coming up in October and closer to the holidays. Soup to Go for those cooler days and VandeWalles candy bars will be for sale once again for those stocking stuffers. Thank you to all who participated in our eat out fund raiser at Red Robin. If you have any questions regarding the RaiseRight program stop at the desk before the service on Sunday morning or give our office a call.

### August 2025 Results

The Numbers	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Direct Giving	16,897	<b>9,239</b>	138,028	<b>125,429</b>
Other Income	4,836	<b>2,844</b>	33,910	<b>49,895</b>
Total Income	21,733	<b>12,084</b>	171,938	<b>175,324</b>
Total Expenses	23,360	<b>18,115</b>	179,898	<b>179,814</b>
Cashflow/(Deficit)	(1,627)	<b>(6,032)</b>	(7,960)	<b>(4,490)</b>

*Rene Rogers*

Rene Rogers  
Treasurer

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## RaiseRight – Gift Cards

RaiseRight orders are due on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>  
We will give you a call when or gift cards are here.



If you haven't tried the RaiseRight program, why don't you check it out?

It's so convenient. There is a gift card for just about anything you need. You can order your gift cards on the first Sunday of the month and pick them up on the second Sunday of the month. No running around from store to store to get the card you want. We also have a limited number of gift cards on hand that will take care of your groceries, gas and other everyday essentials. For every card you purchase, Emmanuel gets a percentage of cash back!

Thank you to **Lisa Smith & Leanne Monroe** for making the program available to us. Thank you to **Margaret Yoder & Sandra Gollher** for their help selling the cards on Sunday mornings.

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# Food Pantry

Food Pantry Update...

October 2025

We served 95 families in August. 184 adults and 116 children were served. 12 families were new to our pantry in August. During 2024 we had 115 new families come to our pantry. We have already had 105 new families come to our pantry thru August of this year. The need is definitely out there, and the government assistance has declined. With our numbers going up and our resources for food decreasing, we are having to purchase more food. We know going to the grocery store is a struggle for everyone. If you find anything on sale such as **Cereal, Rice, Mac & Cheese, Pasta Meals, Soup, Canned Meat or Canned Tuna**, please help us out by purchasing a little bit extra and bringing it in to our food pantry. Thank you for your continued support! Every little bit helps!

We would like to thank our dedicated volunteers for giving of their time each week. Thank you to **Henry Caron, Gail Hable, Jody Schaick, Sherry Pepler, Sandy Folske, Carol Wiechman, Deb Kraemer, Lisa Smith, Peter Smith, Kim Winter, Mike Winter, Meg Hable, Rick Pepler, Ray Hitz, Jim Schaick and Dan Monroe.**

We would also like to thank **Red's Piggly Wiggly, Festival Foods, Craig Geiger and 4Imprint and Silver Creek Meats** for your continued support.

Thank you to **Jay Koepke** for setting things up so that we are able to receive food from Festival Food each week. Jay is now enjoying retirement! Congratulations Jay! Thanks for everything you did to help us out. If you are interested in helping out in the food pantry at any time, just let us know. We can always use more volunteers to help things run smoothly.

Please remember the **Scouting for Food Drive** taking place in grocery stores in our area on **Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am until 2:00pm.** If you are shopping on either of those days, you can donate to the Scouts collecting food at the store. Emmanuel will receive a portion of the food collected on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

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## Thank you

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- Thank you to **Tom Stark** for changing the light bulbs in the upper narthex and the church office.
- Thank you to **Jim Schaick** for keeping on top of the outdoor maintenance around the building.
- Thank you **Ray!** 😊
- Thank you to **Craig Geiger, Jody Schaick, Lisa Smith, Kim Winter and Zach Wolf** for running the projector and live streaming during worship.
- Thank you to **Quinn Bursack, Deb Kraemer, Leanne Monroe and Linda Stowe** for your help reading scriptures during worship.
- Thank you to **Ann Stark** for providing the children's activity bags.
- Thank you to **Dennis & Karen Chapin, Ron Gollhofer, Mary Dinkins, Marilyn Morrison and Val Basler** for picking up the donuts, making coffee and cleaning up after coffee hour.
- Thank you to **Gail Hable** for maintaining the headsets for the hearing loop.

## Coming Up...

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY THE 3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT NOON IN THE LOWER NARTHEX

### Wednesday Evenings

Chime Choir | 5:30pm  
Confirmation | 6:00pm  
Chancel Choir | 6:30pm

### Church Council

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 | 6:30pm

### Bible Study

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 | 12:00pm

### Memorial/Endowment

Tuesday, October 28, 2025 | 6:30pm



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# Sunday School

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Dear Families,

Thank you so much to everyone who joined us for rally day and made the day such a success! We are ready to get poppin' and have a great year!!

October is now here, and with it come colorful leaves, cozy sweaters, and of course—pumpkins! This October in Sunday School, we are celebrating the truth that just like a pumpkin is chosen carefully from the patch, each one of us is **hand-picked by God**.

**At Home Connection:**

Grab a small pumpkin.

As you scoop out the inside, talk about how God removes the “yucky stuff” from our lives.

Place a candle or light inside and read Matthew 5:16 together:

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

**A Sweet Way to Talk to God:**

Take a bag of skittles from your trick or treat bag and as you eat each Skittle, pause and say a short prayer for that color’s meaning.

- ❤ Red – Thank God for someone you love
- 🍊 Orange – Say a prayer for a friend
- 🟡 Yellow – Thank God for something that makes you happy
- 🟢 Green – Pray for someone who needs help
- 💜 Purple – Pray for yourself

Upcoming Important Dates: Sunday October 26th: Trunk or Treat

Blessings,

*Emily Simons*

Sunday School Superintendent

sunday.school@emmanueloshkosh.org

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## Church Council Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Leanne. Opening prayer by Pastor Andi.

**President's Report:** Mary wrote a letter to the council that Leanne read, thanking us for her gift. (No thanks needed because Mary is the best!) Council 2026 ballot needs one Deacon position.

Candy bars are here! A motion was made and passed to start selling them for \$2 a bar. Start selling Nov. 9th in church every Sunday, but if someone wants some before that they can contact the office.

**Secretary's Report:** Report accepted as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report:** Reviewed August financial reports. We had a negative cash flow of (\$6,031.89) with a negative YTD of (\$4,490.03.) Alliant Energy stock was down \$0.40 a share from July. Majority of expenses for the month were Payroll taxes for 3rd quarter WPS, Thomas Fritz pulpit supply, Andi's Health Insurance and Pension. Treasurer's Report accepted as printed.

**Pastor's Report:** Visitation ministry group is going well. We had people take home communion kits. Connie is working on getting polo shirts printed. Is this something we would want to open to the whole church? They would like the ones we currently have. Met with Confirmation families September 7. We will have a class of 10 students, 6 in 8th grade and 4 in 7th grade. Confirmation class starts tomorrow, September 10. Met with the High School Youth Group September 7. We assembled birthday cake kits for the food pantry. Funeral at the church September 13. Rally Sunday September 14. My Communities of Practice program begins this month. Our first meeting is on September 16 at Union Congregational UCC in Green Bay.

Memorial and Endowment meets next month. They will be discussing the interest distribution allocations for the year. Are there any suggestions from this council? Please consider and share any ideas you might have in the coming weeks.

**Deacon's Report:** Will check in with Lori about ordering Communion wafers/cups.

**Trustee's Report:** Use of the parking lot is okay, as long as whoever is using it lets us know somehow. Preferably, there's a way we can contact them in case we need it for something like a funeral.

There is a leak in the upper narthex next to the far right door into the sanctuary that is being addressed.

# Church Council

Church Council Meeting Minutes    September 9, 2025    [Continued](#)

**Old Business:** Lori reached out to Pizza Ranch for a response about a fundraiser and has not heard back, but has sent a follow up email. Wishlist update - Windows for the lower narthex, 7 total. More information later on price and style. Red Robin fundraiser on Monday, Sept. 22.

**New Business:** Insurance coverage request - Sovereign Insurance contacted the office about the building insurance and our coverage. Lori can talk to them and see what getting a quote will involve

Meeting adjourned at with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is on October 14, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.



**\*\*VOTE for the 2026 Church Council\*\***

During the month of October positions on the ballot are as follows:

- Vice President, Dan Rogers
- Secretary, Zach Wolf
- Deacon, Laurie Dorst
- Deacon,
- Trustee, Noah Wilson
- Trustee, Tom Stark

*We are still in need of a volunteer for the open Deacon position. If you are interested, please contact one of the current council members. Thank you!*

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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](http://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!***



Noisy collection to benefit our Sunday school mission project, Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> 2025  
**Save you coins and make some noise!**

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Gifts to Neighbors in Need support the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The other two-thirds of the offering support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects, and grants. Neighbors in Need grants are annually awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>** is the date designated to receive your Neighbors in Need donation. Please use the envelope enclosed in this Lamplighter for your donation. Also, please remember to put your name on the envelope to receive proper credit to your account. Thank you!



**\*\*DATE CHANGE\*\***

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12<sup>th</sup>**

Collection for "Scouting for Food" will take place in grocery stores on October 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am until 2:00pm. Our pantry has been asked to receive the food that has been collected on Sunday, October 12. We would need a few people here around 2:30-3:00pm to help bring the food into the building. We will then need more people to help sort the food on Monday and Tuesday (if needed) between 8:00am and Noon. Please call the church office or let Henry Caron know if you would be interested in helping. Thank you!

## Miscellaneous



Please use the order blank.

Have your orders in by October 19<sup>th</sup> for Pick up on October 26<sup>th</sup>

You can also call the church office, 920.235.8340, or email the church office at [office@emmaueloshkosh.org](mailto:office@emmaueloshkosh.org) to place your order.

<b>\$8.00 / quart</b>	<b>Name:</b> _____
Chili W/O Beans	How Many: _____
Chili W/ Beans	How Many: _____
Chicken Dumpling	How Many: _____
French Onion	How Many: _____
Loaded Baked Potato	How Many: _____
Amount Due	_____

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## Miscellaneous

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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	Sherrri Annis
Sandy Gollither	Margaret Yoder
Emily Reyes	

### Pastoral Relations Committee:

Sandra Gollither	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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