



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.



EASTER MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

We are once again offering the option of ordering your choice of Easter flowers. Either an Easter Lily or Tulip Plant is being offered. If you don't want to purchase a flower, a donation can be made to Emmanuel's General Fund.

****FLOWER DEADLINE IS MARCH 22ND****

EMMANUEL DONATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 29TH

Please use the order blank inside this Lamplighter. Thank you!

Pastor Andi's Message

March 2026

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I was reading through some various resources for the Lenten season. One of the books I kept returning to was by Ann Weems, titled "From Advent's Alleluia to Easter's Morning Light." I have always been profoundly challenged by Ann Weem's writing. One poem, called 'We All Have Our Courtyards' calls our attention to Peter in the courtyard and reminds us that we all have those times and places in our lives when we have to stand up and decide if we are going to stand with Jesus or deny we ever really knew him.

Of course, none of us would ever deny we knew Jesus like Peter did...or would we? The reality is that we can proclaim loudly with our voices that we follow Jesus while telling people with our actions that we know nothing about him. Do we really *know* Jesus, or are we trying to make him into the Messiah we want him to be?

Jesus told us over and over who he is and what is precious to him. Mary spoke of it first while carrying him in her womb, and Jesus affirmed it with the way he lived his life. Jesus came to bring good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed and sight to the blind. Jesus came to lift up those the world named worthless and knock the arrogant, wealthy, powerful and haughty down from their lofty places. Jesus came to turn the ways of this world upside down so we might finally see what is pleasing in the sight of God.

And some day, we will find ourselves in a courtyard where we have to decide if we really know Jesus or not. Lent is the time to prepare for those courtyard questions. Lent is the time to really listen to who Jesus says he is so we can faithfully follow.

All too often we claim to know Jesus, and it ends up being as true as the patron who claims to know the owner of the establishment hoping for free drinks or a comped meal. Jesus has told us who he is and what is important to him. In Matthew 25, Jesus himself tells us what kind of people will be welcomed in paradise and who will get the free drinks and comped meals. He tells us those who gave food and drink to the hungry and thirsty; those who welcomed the stranger and gave clothes to the naked; those who visited the lonely who were sick or in prison; those who did for the least of these are those who will be welcomed warmly.

Those who saw the hungry or thirsty or a stranger or sick or in prison and chose not to care for them? Those who turned a blind eye to the hurt, abuse and general plight of the least of these? "Depart from me," Jesus says. "I don't know you, and you certainly don't know me" (that is my personal interpretation of 'you who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devils and his angels,' Matt 25:41).

We all have our courtyards. Use this Lenten journey to get prepared for yours.

Pastor Andi

pastor.andi@emmanueloshkosh.org

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!

MARCH USHER SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 1st – Ron & Sandra Gollieher

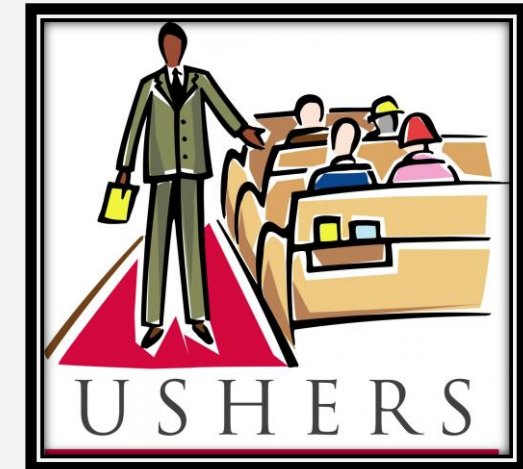
Sunday, March 8th – Dan & Rene Rogers

Sunday, March 15th – Brad & Liz Schultz

Sunday, March 22nd – *Volunteers are Needed*

Sunday, March 29th – *Volunteers are Needed*

Would you like to be an Usher? Please sign up online at Get Involved on our website, emmanueloshkosh.org.



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Treasurer's Nook

Starting January 2026 cash flow at negative for the month (\$3,662.)

Thank you to all that participated in the Raise Right program which will also include carwash cards for sale to help keep your cars clean of salt through winter. We had our first fund raiser dining out at Pizza Ranch with many more to come throughout the year. 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.

JANUARY 2026 RESULTS

The Numbers	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Direct Giving	17,597	14,931	17,597	14,931
Other Income	4,097	4,122	4,097	4,122
Total Income	21,694	19,053	21,694	19,053
Total Expenses	24,850	22,715	4,850	22,715
Cashflow/(Deficit)	(3,156)	(3,662)	(3,156)	(3,662)



Rene Rogers
Treasurer

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RaiseRight – Gift Cards

Orders are due by Sunday, March 1st at Noon! We will give you a call or send you an email when your cards have arrived.

Remember we have a limited supply of gift cards available that can be purchased on Sunday mornings in the lower narthex or weekday mornings in the church office. Need to buy treats for those Easter baskets? There are gift cards available for everything you need for Easter.

If you haven't participated in our RaiseRight program, please check it out and start utilizing this program today! This helps generate income for Emmanuel just by purchasing gift cards for stores that you already shop at. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Smith or Leanne Monroe, they would be happy to get you started!

Thank you to **Lisa Smith and Leanne Monroe** for managing this program. Thank you to **Margaret Yoder and Sandra Golliver** for selling the cards on Sunday mornings.



RaiseRight.

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Food Pantry

Food Pantry Update...

March 2026

Our government commodities have diminished, which means that we are having to purchase a lot more food than we used to. We are very grateful to **Festival Foods, Red's Piggly Wiggly, Silver Creek Meats, JJ Keller & Pick N Save** for their continued support in providing food for our pantry. Thank you to **Craig Geiger and 4Imprint** for providing bags for our frozen food items. Thank you to all of you who continue to bring in much needed food items. Pick N Save has been running a lot of BOGO sales. If you shop there or anywhere else where there is this kind of sale, please think of picking up an item for you and that second item for the food pantry. We are always in need of non-perishable food items to fill our shelves. If you see a sale, help us out and bring in your extra food items.

During the month of January, we assisted 87 families in our food pantry. 168 adults and 144 children were served in our pantry. 12 families were new to our pantry. Sad to say our numbers keep growing.

Thank you to our dedicated group of volunteers. Thank you to **Henry Caron, Ray Hitz, Gail Hable, Sandy Folske, Sherry Pepler, Carol Wiechman, Deb Kraemer, Lisa Smith, Peter Smith, Jody Schaick, Jim Schaick, Meg Hable, Brad Schultz, Rick Pepler, Mike Winter, Kim Winter and Dan Monroe.**

The Letter Carrier Food Drive will be held on Saturday, May 9th. We will need drivers and runners to go on the routes and pick up food, and sorters to help sort the food on that day. Mark your calendars and please plan on helping out!

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Thank you

- ❖ Thank you to **Craig Geiger, Leanne Monroe, Jody Schaick, Brooklyn Schultz, Cory Schultz, Lisa Smith & Kim Winter** for running the projector and live streaming our worship services.
- ❖ Thank you to **Julie Barthels, Quinn Bursack, Deb Kraemer & Peter Smith** for your reading scripture during our worship services.
- ❖ Thank you to **Dennis & Karen Chapin, Ron Golliver, Mary Dinkins, Valeria Basler and Marilyn Morrison** for their work setting up, cleaning up, making the coffee and picking up donuts so we are able to enjoy fellowship after worship on Sunday mornings.
- ❖ Thank you to **Cory Schultz** for updating the announcements on the lower narthex tv.
- ❖ Thank you to **Ann Stark** for providing the children's activity bags.
- ❖ Thank you to **Lisa Smith & Cory Schultz** for keeping our website and Facebook page up to date.
- ❖ Thank you to **Jim Schaick** for installing the new blinds in the lower narthex and disposing of the old blinds.
- ❖ Thank you Ray! 😊

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Wednesday Evenings

- Chime Choir Rehearsals – 5:30pm
- Confirmation – 6:00pm (No class 3/25)
- Chancel Choir Rehearsals – 6:30pm

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Daylight Savings time begins, don't forget to set your clocks ahead!

- Sunday School – 10:00am

Sunday, March 10, 2026

- Church Council – 6:30pm

Sunday, March 22, 2026

- Sunday School – 10:00am

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Noisy Collection, Benefitting our Sunday School Missions



JOIN US FOR LENTEN BOOK STUDY
“AN UNLIKELY LENT”
Tuesday, March 3, 10, 17 & 24
AT NOON

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 10-11

GREEN LAKE CONFERENCE CENTER

Would you be interested in representing Emmanuel at the Annual Meeting?

Contact Pastor Andi or the church office for more information.

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Happy March!

As we step into a new month filled with fresh beginnings and hints of spring, we are reminded of a beautiful truth: I am lucky because God loves me. God's love is not based on chance or luck—it is constant, faithful, and always with us. This month, we will focus on recognizing God's love in our everyday lives and trusting Him for strength and guidance.

☀️ The Lord Gives Me Strength

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31. When we feel tired, nervous, or unsure, God gives them strength. Just like an eagle soaring high, God helps us rise above challenges when we trust Him.

Family Activity Idea:

Take a family walk and look for signs of strength in nature—trees standing tall, birds flying, or flowers pushing through the ground. Talk about how God gives strength to all of creation, including each of you.

🙏 God Hears My Prayers

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.” 1 John 5:14. God hears our prayers when we are happy, sad, thankful, or worried. God always listens.

Family Activity Idea:

Create a “Family Prayer Jar.” Write prayers or thank-yous on slips of paper throughout the week and read them together during a family prayer time. Watch how God works in your lives!

At-Home Activity Idea:

Pour a small bowl of Lucky Charms and sort the marshmallows by shape. As you sort, connect each shape to a faith reminder:

- ❤️ Heart – God loves me.
- 🌈 Rainbow – God keeps His promises.
- ★ Star – God guides me.
- 🍀 Clover – I am blessed.
- 🐾 Horseshoe – God protects me.

After sorting, enjoy a small treat together and say a family prayer thanking God for His love and blessings. Remind your child that being “lucky” means being loved by God no matter what. His love is with us at home, at school, with friends, and everywhere we go.

Thank you to everyone who has donated towards our mission project so far! Let's keep up the great work and continue to bless others with self-care products!

Blessings to you, *Emily Simons* Sunday School Superintendent sunday.school@emmanueloshkosh.org

Memorial & Honorarium

FEBRUARY MEMORIAL & HONORARIUM REPORT

In loving memory of **MARY RAPP**

A gift to the **Food Pantry** by

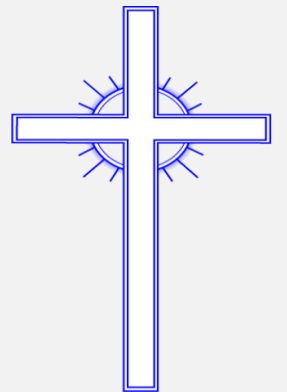
Peter & Lisa Smith
Dan & Rene Rogers
Sandra Folske
John Nigl
Clifford & Lynette Bird

Jeff & Ann Stark
Cheryl Pepler
Tony & Judy Ambroso
Dan & Leanne Monroe
Mike & Kim Winter

In loving memory of **KETIH CORY**

A gift to the **Memorial Fund** by

Mike & Kim Winter



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Church Council

2026 Annual Meeting February 8, 2026

Call to Order- Leanne Monroe called the meeting to order at 10:06 am with a quorum as 41 members were present.

Opening Prayer- Pastor Andi Wolf offered the opening prayer.

Adoption of the Agenda- Gerry Keuler made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Jeff Stark. Motion carried.

Approve minutes from 2025 Annual Meeting- Julie Barthels made a motion to accept the minutes from the Annual meeting on February 9, 2025, seconded by Lisa Smith. Motion carried.

Recognition of the Church Council- Leanne recognized 2025 Retiring Member- Linda Stowe – Deacon (congregation offered applause as their thanks) and welcomed 2026 New Council Member-Leanne Bloedow.

Non-Financial Reports Approved- Leanne asked if there were any questions or comments about the non-financial reports-- President's Report, Pastor's Report, Technology Committee Report, and any other non-financial reports. Rene Rogers made a motion to accept all non-financial reports, seconded by Sandy Gollither. Motion carried.

2025 Financial Reports

Leanne asked if there were any questions concerning the Treasurer's Report. Gerry Keuler made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Jeff Stark. Motion carried.

Leanne asked if there were any questions concerning the Memorial and Endowment Report. Peter Smith made a motion to accept the Memorial and Endowment Report, seconded by Karen Chapin. Motion carried.

Old Business- There was no old business.

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New Business- Leanne directed the congregation's attention to the Memorial and Endowment interest allocation. Accrued interest was \$11,369.16. \$369.18 was returned to principal leaving \$11,000 to allocate.

The Memorial and Endowment Committee, after Church Council review, recommends the following allocations for congregational review and approval:

10% for Local Church Mission-\$1,100

Day by Day - \$600

Oshkosh DAV - \$500

10% For Wider Church Missions-\$1,100

UCC Disaster Relief - \$1,100

10% For Local Church Programs-\$1,100

EUCC Food Pantry - \$850

Special Music-\$250

70% Remaining Allocation-\$7,700

Roof (Long-term)- \$6,000

Tuckpointing-\$1,700

Jim Schaick made a motion to accept the recommended allocation, seconded by Dan Monroe. Motion carried.

Leanne directed the congregation's attention to the proposed 2026 budget. She asked for any questions and/or comments. Valeria Basler made a motion to accept the 2026 budget, seconded by Dan Rogers. Motion carried.

Roof: Craig Geiger reported about the roof damage and the internal damage that has presented. Leubke gave a bid to do repairs at a cost of \$2500. This would be for 2 workers for the entire day. However, this comes with no assurances that the repaired places are the cause of the internal water damage.

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Tuckpointing: Craig Geiger shared he had contacted 3 companies for bids. Rock Solid sent a bid for \$10,000-\$14,000 to tuckpoint the whole east side of the building. AO Handy gave a bid for \$5200 to repair the needed areas, but not tuckpoint the entire east side of the building. Top Notch did not send in a bid. There was discussion about making sure the new mortar is matched to existing mortar (an issue with the last tuckpointing.) Congregation was reminded that tuckpointing is a routine maintenance that needs to be done every 30 years or so. The tuckpointing and the roof could very well be the cause of the water damage on the wall in the upper narthex, but no one is certain. Ron Gollither asked what all would be included with the company's tuckpointing procedures. Those questions will be asked of the company contracted to do the work.

Ron also inquired if anyone has actually seen any of the work AO had done. He believes this might be important to ensure the finished product looks good.

Jeff Stark thanked the council for bringing the information to the congregation. He then asked about the bell tower repairs.

Tom Stark shared that we received a call from OPD stating that the louver was hanging out of one of the bell tower opening. He shared the challenges to repairing, what needs to be replaced, what can be salvaged, and how we will need to move needed items up to the tower and down from the tower (have to be lowered from the outside because the scuttle is too small). Tom also shared that the tower needs to be cleaned as it has about 6 inches of debris on the floor. The screens located on the inside of the tower will need to be replaced. The louvers provide wind protection and help keep the screens in place, and the screens keep critters out. Tom and Craig did a temporary fix that should carry us through to warmer weather. Jason Ellis asked if the louver that was damaged needs to be replaced. Tom thinks it can be salvaged. Ron Gollither asked about how the louver is held in place. Tom shared the plans to reinforce the screens and louvers. Jeff Stark shared some history on the louvers being placed in the 60's and recalled it was done pretty much in house.

Leanne Monroe shared that we have no cost estimates but wanted to share the information with the congregation.

Good & Welfare-There were no additional comments or concerns.

Jeff Stark made a motion we adjourn, seconded by Valeria Basler. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:49 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Annette K Wolf.

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Church Council

Church Council Meeting--February 10, 2026

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

President's Report: The pizza ranch fundraiser went well! We made \$370.08. Candy bars are here! Plan to start selling them on March 8th, for \$2 a bar. Kwik Trip car wash cards are out (3 left), so Lori will order some more. Leanne asked if the council would continue to get the Memorial and Endowment minutes. They would. Had a short discussion about the Annual Meeting. Craig and Tom did a great job explaining the building concerns.

Secretary's Report: January Minutes were approved. Annual Meeting Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed January financial reports. We had a negative cash flow of -\$3,661.60 with the same negative YTD. Alliant Energy stock was up +\$0.90. Majority of expenses for the month were Payroll taxes for 4th quarter, WPS, Andi's Health Ins/Pension and Bartels Farm snowplowing. Treasurer's Report accepted as printed.

Pastor's Report: Last Month: I completed boundary training on January 29 and should be good for 3 years. This Month: I met with Ed and Andrea Schneider on February 2. They would like to join Emmanuel. I will be chatting with Ron and Carol Lapoint in a couple of months when they return. Thursday night services began last week, and I believe we had 11 people. The Lay Visitation Team meets February 15 for their next meeting. February 17 (Fat Tuesday!) we begin our next book study. We will be discussing the book "An Unlikely Lent" by Rachel Billups. The cost of the book study has been offset by funds from the Demler fund. We will meet Tuesdays at noon. Books were ordered yesterday. February 18 is Ash Wednesday. We will have a 7:00 service with the Imposition of Ashes and Communion. For the Future: Peter Smith will be providing pulpit supply while I am on vacation. Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting is April 10-11 at the Green Lake Conference Center. I will be attending and we can have 2 additional delegates.

Trustee's Report: Craig reached out to AO Handy, waiting on response. Two proposals for work, one for the roof and one for tuck pointing. Motion approved to request \$6,000 from the M&E for tuck pointing. Motion approved to request \$3,000 from the M&E for the roof. The city is looking at lead in our city water pipes, and we are in the "unknown" category. With the belltower fixes, Mary brought up a concern about the Organ chamber - they aren't connected in a way that the repairs would affect the organ.

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Old Business: Blinds - total cost leaves about \$1,600 in the fund. Mostly positive feedback, though there were a few comments that they are a little dark.

New Business: Piano bookcase to be moved back to the corner in the upper narthex. Maybe display the current Sunday School project.

Good & Welfare: Fundraiser ideas: We've done Culver's, Qdoba, Red Robin and Pizza Ranch pretty successfully in the past. Look into doing Pizza Ranch, Culver's (both locations) and Red Robin again. Jim will look into a Packer game fundraiser, and Dan to look into the Timber Rattlers. Had a request to use church space to show items that need a new home—camping gear, religious items and such. Council did not want them given away from here but would be willing to help spread the word through the newsletter and/or bulletin.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is on March 10, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

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One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

Please use the envelope enclosed in this Lamplighter for your donations to OGHS. Please put your name on the envelope to receive credit to your account. Thank you!

We Have Vande Walle's Candy Bars!!!

We will be selling Vande Walle's candy bars in the lower narthex on Sunday mornings beginning **March 8th. The price will be \$2.00 per candy bar.** While supplies last, the flavors available are Milk Chocolate, Dark Chocolate, Chocolate Truffle, English Toffee, Peanut Butter Meltaway, Mint Truffle, Caramel Nut and Caramel. If you would like to help sell the candy bars on Sundays, please contact the church office. You can also purchase candy bars weekday mornings in the church office. Grab a few to put in those Easter baskets!

Have you received a strange text or email from Pastor Andi requesting the purchase of gift cards? This is a scam! Pastor Andi would never reach out to you in that way with a request. We appreciate those of you who let us know that you have received such a request, so we are able to post it on our Facebook page to not respond. Everyone is so willing to help those in need and we want you to know that if such a request is necessary, Pastor Andi would reach out to you in person. Thank you for looking out for each other!

We would like to welcome Ed and Andrea Schneider to Emmanuel! Here is a little bit about them...

We have been married for 35 years and have 6 children and 9 grandchildren. Ed retired from Oshkosh Truck after 40 years. Andrea retired from Rosendale-Brandon School district after 20 years. We have a travel trailer and enjoy camping and travel and like to stay in State and National Parks. Ed sang with our former church for 30 years and enjoys singing here. Thank you for welcoming us to the Emmanuel family. We are looking forward to getting to know you.

Andrea and Ed

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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.



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!

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!



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

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 contact the church office. office@emmanuelshkosh.org.

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EASTER MEMORIAL & HONORARIUMS

We are once again offering the option of ordering your choice of Easter flowers. Either an Easter Lily or Tulip Plant is being offered. If you don't want to purchase a flower, a donation can be made to Emmanuel's General Fund.

However you decide to honor your loved one, we will have it listed in the bulletin if we receive the request by the deadline.

****FLOWER DEADLINE IS MARCH 22ND****

ANY GENERAL FUND DONATIONS RECEIVED AFTER MARCH 29TH WILL BE LISTED IN THE LAMPLIGHTER ONLY

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

GIVEN BY _____

EASTER LILY (\$11.00)

HOW MANY _____

TULIP PLANT (\$11.00)

HOW MANY _____

DONATION TO GENERAL FUND _____

AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

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
Rene Rogers	Dan Rogers
Debra Kraemer	Earl Dorst
Leanne Bloedow	Laurie Dorst
Craig Geiger	Noah Wilson
Tom Stark	Jim Schaick

Memorial/Endowment Committee:

Gerry Keuler	Ann Stark
Deb Bartel	Jeff Stark
Sandy Gollhofer	Margaret Yoder
Emily Reyes	

Pastoral Relations Committee:

Sandra Gollhofer	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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