



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.



Pastor Andi's Message

June / July 2026

When I have the time, I love a good rabbit hole! You never know how deep they go or where they are going to lead you. Recently, one of the people I follow on Facebook, Pastor Brandon, posted a quote from Rev. Benjamin Cremer, "Religious idolatry for us Christians is when we love our beliefs about God and people more than we love God and people." Another day it was a quote from Father Richard Rohr, "Jesus tried to change people by loving & healing them. His harshest words of judgement were reserved for those who perpetuated systems of inequality & oppression & who, through religion itself, thought they were sinless and untouchable." Both these quotes hit me as I increasingly ask, "How much of the beliefs and policy of the church today is influenced by the actions and teaching of the Jesus we meet in the gospels?" And I throw that question out there for all of you to wrestle with as well. Only when we openly ask the questions and squirm with the answers will we be able to right a ship that has drifted off course.

Politics and religion intersect—they always have and they always will. Politics is the process groups use to make collective decisions, resolve conflicts, and distribute power and limited resources within society (so says Merriam-Webster). I believe our faith should inform our politics. But I get really worried when our politics start creeping into our churches. We simply cannot cling to the Christ and our political beliefs equally, just as Christ warned us we cannot serve God and wealth simultaneously.

These are the kind of questions we don't ask, because when we are completely honest with ourselves, we don't always like the answer. I think that is OK only because it means we are honestly examining things through the lens of our faith. We make the choice to sin when we begin to justify our self-centered interests and politics by minimizing Christ's call to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. There is no loophole, no matter how desperately we search for one.

Church, let's move forward continually asking what Jesus would say or what he would call us to do, as we make decisions. Love, grace and mercy is to be shared generously; judgement is reserved for self as we consider the log in our own eye before we point out the speck in our neighbor's eye.

Pastor Andi

pastor.andi@emmanueloshkosh.org

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Ushers

June Usher Schedule

- Sunday, June 7** – Ron & Sandra Gollither
Sunday, June 14 – Dan & Rene Rogers
Sunday, June 21 – Brad & Liz Schultz
Sunday, June 28 – ***Volunteers are Needed***

July Usher Schedule

- Sunday, July 5** – Ron & Sandra Gollither
Sunday, July 12 – Dan & Rene Rogers
Sunday, July 19 – Brad & Liz Schultz
Sunday, July 26 – ***Volunteers are Needed***

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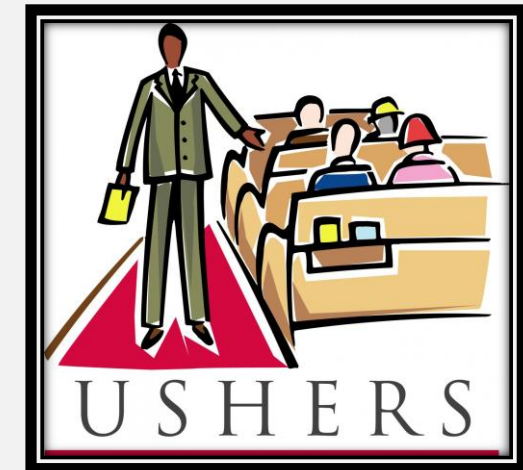
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Treasurer's Nook

April 2026 cash flow at a positive 1,064 and 698 year to date

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 for the spring and summer. We still have a few of Vande Walle's candy bars for sale in the office. I saw quite a lot of our members at our dining out fund raiser at Culver's. 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 2026 Results

The Numbers	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Direct Giving	19,140	24,756	73,379	84,412
Other Income	4,097	4,006	17,599	13,117
Total Income	23,237	28,762	90,978	97,529
Total Expenses	27,029	27,698	97,900	96,831
Cashflow/(Deficit)	(3,792)	1,064	(6,922)	698

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 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 call 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 Strengthen the Church donation. Remember to put your name on the envelope to receive proper credit to your account. Donations for Strengthen the Church will be received through the month of June. Thank you for your support!



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RaiseRight – Gift Cards



RaiseRight.

GIFT CARD ORDERS WILL BE PLACED ON SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH AND SUNDAY, JULY 5TH

Please have your orders in by noon on those dates, thank you! We will call or email you when your order is in.

Remember those graduates and Dad's in your life with a gift card! There is something available for everyone!

Just a reminder that we have a limited supply of gift cards available weekday mornings in the church office or you can purchase cards on Sunday morning at the Raise Right table. Thank you to **Sandra Gollhofer and Margaret Yoder** for selling cards on Sunday mornings.

Thank you to **Leanne Monroe & Lisa Smith** for managing this program.

Food Pantry

Food Pantry Update...

June/July 2026

During the month of April we served 89 families. 156 adults and 134 children were served. 9 families were new to our pantry. Thank you to the following volunteers for their continued dedication to the food pantry.

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

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

Thank you to everyone donated food for the Letter Carrier Food Drive held on Saturday, May 9th. We received 3,391 pounds of food! This is down a little from the 5,200 pounds we received last year. We feel some of this is because of the cost of food as well as not having designated bags available to remind people to put food out.

Thank you to our fantastic volunteers:

**Henry Caron
Andi Wolf
Jim Schaick
Tom Stark
Marc Heikhila**

**Ray Hitz
Hannah Wolf
Jody Schaick
Earl Dorst
Peter Smith**

**Gail Hable
Becca Wolf
Candy McGinnis
Claudia Lennop
Lisa Smith**

**Joan Peterson
Carol Wiechman
Rene Rogers
Dan Rogers**

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Thank you

To my Dear Family and Friends at Emmanuel!

I just want to express my utmost gratitude and sincere thanks to all of you who were able to come out and join us on May 8th for the Peter Mayer Concert at 1st Congregational! It was overwhelming to see so many of you there! I can only hope that Peter's music and message resonated as much with you as it did with me. Like Pastor Andi said: "When Emmanuel shows up to support a cause – they *really* show up!!!" 😊 Thanks again so very much!!! From my heart - Mary

- Thank you to **Tom Stark, Jeff Stark, Craig Geiger, Ray Hitz, Jim Schaick and Ron Gollhofer** for making the necessary repairs in the bell tower.
- Thank you to **Tom Stark** for securing the parking bumpers in the parking lot.
- Thank you to **Jody Schaick, Cory Schultz, Lisa Smith, Noah Wilson, Kim Winter, Becca Wolf and Zach Wolf** for running the projector and live streaming our worship services.
- Thank you to **Julie Barthels, Leanne Monroe, Linda Stowe and Milo Dehne** for reading scripture during worship.
- Thank you to **Cory Schultz and Lisa Smith** for keeping our website up to date.
- Thank you to **Cory Schultz** for keeping the announcements up to date on the lower narthex tv.
- Thank you to **Dennis Chapin, Karen Chapin, Ron Gollhofer, Mary Dinkins, Marilyn Morrison and Valeria Basler** for setting up and cleaning up for coffee hour.
- Thank you to **Ann Stark** for providing the children's activity bags.
- Thank you to **Beverly Edwards** for providing gifts for the Confirmation students.
- Thank you to **Leanne Bloedow** for making the boutonnieres for Confirmation as well as updating the flowers on the altar, the bathrooms and the outdoor planters.
- Thank you Ray! 😊
- Thank you to **Jim Schaick** for mowing the lawn and taking care of the outdoor maintenance.

Culver's Fundraiser...

*We would like to thank everyone who participated in our fundraising night at Culver's on April 28th. We raised \$500!!! Thank you to **Jim & Jody Schaick, Holly & Asher Norkofski, Leanne Bloedow and Aubree Sobojinski** for volunteering to work for the fundraiser.*

Coming Up...

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Council Meeting 6:30pm

No council meeting in July

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

Memorial/Endowment Meeting 6:30pm

July 20 – 26, 2026

EAA PARKING – HELP IS NEEDED

Call the church office if you can help!

Saturday, August 1, 2026

CHILDREN'S PARADE

"Better Zoogether" from Zootopia

Please contact Emily Reyes if you are interested in being a part of the parade.



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Sunday School Scoop...

“Taste and See God’s Goodness”

“Taste and see that the Lord is good.” – Psalm 34:8

Summer reminds us of so many sweet things — sunshine, laughter, time with family, and of course... ice cream! Just like a scoop of your favorite flavor can bring joy on a hot day, God fills our lives with goodness, love, and blessings every single day.

When we “taste and see” God’s goodness, we experience His love through kindness, friendship, worship, helping others, and spending time together in faith. Sometimes God’s goodness feels big and exciting, and sometimes it’s found in the simple little moments — a smile from a friend, a helping hand, or a peaceful Sunday morning.

Important Announcement – Changes for Next Sunday School Year

Beginning this fall, Sunday School will meet from 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM.

New Sunday Morning Schedule:

Children will be dismissed to their classes following the Children’s Story.

From 10:00–10:15 AM, children will meet for music in the sanctuary.

Confirmation Students

Students in confirmation will no longer have an assigned Sunday School classroom, as they are participating in confirmation instruction.

However, they are always welcome and encouraged to participate in any special activities and events hosted by the Sunday School program!

Children’s Parade 2026

Theme: **“Better Zoogether”** from *Zootopia*

We are looking for volunteers to help walk in the parade and **assist with creating our float!**

 **Children’s Parade:** Saturday, August 1st

If you are interested in helping, please contact **Emily Reyes**.

Blessings to you,

Emily Simons

Sunday School Superintendent

sunday.school@emmanueloshkosh.org

Church Council

Church Council Meeting May 12, 2026

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Leanne. Opening prayer by Pastor Andi.

President's Report: Candy Bar Sales - We have 48 left, Lori deposited the money we have so far, \$1115. Kwik Trip cards, we have 5 left. We've made \$2,280 since 2023. Culver's check was about \$500. Food drive - 3,391 lbs. of food was collected. The M&E committee met, and the minutes were sent to the council.

Secretary's Report: Andi's minutes looked good, just missing her name at the bottom. Minutes were accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed April financial reports. We had a positive cash flow of \$1,064.60 with a positive YTD of \$698.57. Alliant Energy stock was +\$1.67 this month. Majority of expenses for the month were Payroll taxes for 1st quarter, WPS, Andi's Health Ins/Pension, Bartels Farm snowplowing, and Security Luebke Roofing. Just signed the check for AO Handy, now only need for the money to be transferred. Treasurer's Report accepted as printed.

Pastor's Report: General: The Christian Ed department purchased a small gift for the educators; Emily Reyes, Rachel Dehne, Penny Schumann, Becca Wolf and Candy Stark. Lori gave those to Leanne to hand out. Emily may help with the Rite of Confirmation service as a representative of the Christian Ed program. The letter carrier food drive went well, though donations were down from the year prior. We took in 3391 pounds of food. Last year was about 5200 pounds. Lori has let me know that she will no longer be picking up and repotting flowers for Mother's Day. It would be good to have a plan in place for recognition of Mother's and Father's Day. I started my anti-racism training, as required by the UCC. First session went well. I have heard a number of positive comments about the altar area. I believe small visual things can make a significant impact. I have three people interested in the Fellowship Committee. I think that is a good start. Last Month: April 26 was the final Sunday School class of the season. Next year will see some changes. The teachers have been seriously discussing changing the schedule. Sunday School would be on the same weeks, but during the worship time. Kids would be in church until after the children's message and then be dismissed to their classes. Not sure what we will do with Confirmation kids since I will have to stay in worship. I have a few ideas... Memorial and Endowment met April 27. Next meeting is July 28. Culver's fundraiser on April 28 went quite well. Good to see a number of Emmanuel faces. This Month: The Lay Visitation group met May 3. I am very pleased with what the group is doing. However, I have been lax with my visits and need to get back on a schedule. I officiated at Mary Rapp's memorial service on May 4. **Continued...**

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Church Council Meeting May 12, 2026

Pastor's Report: *Continued...* you earn ~\$300-400, but concerts and things like that working booths you can make \$1000 but those are late & a little more involved.

Good & Welfare: Lay readers, you're amazing! But... please move the microphone closer to the mouth, so the t-coil/livestream can hear better. Tom asks about the possibility of moving the projector/livestream down to the pews so it's easier to access.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.
Next meeting is on June 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

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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 thank you! 😊

Remember when you go on vacation this summer, take us a long!!!

We can go wherever you go...

VANDE WALLE CANDY BAR UPDATE...

Thank you to everyone who has purchased a candy bar for our candy bar fundraiser!! Our profit so far is \$515.06!! We still have a limited supply of Milk Chocolate candy bars left. Stop by the church office any weekday morning and pick one up for \$2! Hurry before they are all gone!

Fellowship Committee...

We are still looking for volunteers interested in forming a Fellowship Committee. Pastor Andi's vision is to have a committee plan a couple of things like a pancake breakfast, dinner, an outing, to name a few. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this committee and bringing Emmanuel closer together sharing in fellowship and fun!

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EMMANUEL WILL BE PARKING CARS FOR EAA JULY 20 – JULY 26

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 20th. 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 Ron Gollither or the church office. This fundraiser is a HUGE boost to our general fund. Last year we raised \$19,754!! Please consider volunteering. It is an opportunity to be outside, see the air show, and meet people from around the world!

“When we seek to discover the best in others,
We somehow bring out the best in ourselves.”
-William Arthur Ward

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COMMUNITY BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR *Powered by The Haliburton Family Foundation and the Oshkosh Community*

The Oshkosh Community Back to School Fair (BTSF) Committee is preparing for the 27th annual fair held at Vel Phillips Middle School on August 12th and 13th.

The committee would like to assist over 1400 students get ready for the 2026/27 school year. Each student receives a backpack filled with school supplies, along with a shoe voucher, clothing, underwear, and hygiene items.

Students are referred through local agencies and school staff who work closely with families and help identify those with the greatest need. Together, they aim to remove barriers and help students feel prepared and confident as they return to school.

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 2nd.**

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 2026/27 school year. Thank you for your support!



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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
Leanne Bloedow	Laurie Dorst
Craig Geiger	Noah Wilson
Tom Stark	Jim Schaick

Memorial/Endowment Committee:

Jeff Stark	Ann Stark
Deb Bartel	Sherry Annis
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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