

the lamplighter

Emmanuel

United Church of Christ

1306 Michigan Street
Oshkosh, WI 54902
920.235.8340
emmanueloshkosh.org

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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Wednesday, November 25, 2026
at 7:00pm

We will also be blessing the food that has been collected throughout the month of November for Emmanuel's Food Pantry.



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Pastor Andi's Message

November 2026

Kids can be intimidating for some people. They don't follow "grown-up" social norms and usually say what they think. They ask questions that grown-ups might consider impolite, and they don't always ignore that feeling inside them telling them to stay away from certain people. Actually, I think it's their honesty that people find intimidating. And yet, children can also be remarkably welcoming to those who are different, as long as they feel safe.

We could learn a lot from little kids. As they get older, they learn our ways of making people feel bad about who they are and the limitations they face. But when they're little, they can be accepting in ways that we adults sometimes forget how to be. Perhaps that's one of the reasons Jesus warned us that unless we can receive God's kingdom like children, we might struggle to understand it.
One of the radical things about Jesus was that he crossed boundaries that society and religion had set. Some people were deemed "unclean," and those who dared to interact with them risked being treated the same way. Jesus not only crossed those lines and interacted with the people the church and society had thrown away—he made them whole!

Amazingly, the people around him were not always happy about that. People liked the divisions that set some people as "in" and others as "out" (especially when they were the ones on the inside, of course). Jesus challenged their beliefs and opinions, and from that time on, he was increasingly targeted by those who felt threatened by what he was doing.

In today's world, we still like to push people out and blame whole groups of people for the problems we face. We marginalize people based on race, creed, gender, sexuality, immigration status, and the list goes on. Every time we do that, we need to ask ourselves whether we are choosing to stand with or against the teachings of Jesus.

We can disagree with people. We can think they are making poor life choices. We can believe them to be sinners, just as people regarded tax collectors and others as sinners in Jesus' time. However, we cannot marginalize, dehumanize, or hate them and still claim to be following the path Jesus set before us.

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That doesn't mean there are no rules. It means that the people we think are breaking the rules do not erase the rules of discipleship for us. Our responsibility to love, show mercy, and treat others with dignity doesn't disappear just because we believe someone else is wrong.

As we continue to learn what it means to follow Jesus, may we always choose love, grace, and mercy over hate, condemnation, and revenge. Our certainty that the tax collectors of our time are supposed to be ostracized may be exactly what is sealing our own fate. And when we marginalize whole groups of people, we may find ourselves on the wrong side of Jesus' parables!

Pastor Andi

pastor.andi@emmanueloshkosh.org

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Ushers

November Usher Schedule

Sunday,	November 1	Ron & Sandra Golliher
Sunday,	November 8	Dan & Rene Rogers
Sunday,	November 15	Brad & Liz Schultz
Sunday,	November 22	Mike & Alice Peppler
Thanksgiving Eve **Thursday** **7:00pm**	**November 25**	**Volunteers Needed**
Sunday	November 29	**Volunteers Needed**



We could always use more ushers! Please contact the church office if you are interested.

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Treasurer's Nook

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 fall. We also have a number of fund raisers starting up with our Vande Walle candy bars and our out to dinner at Culvers in October. If you have any questions regarding the Raise Right program stop at the desk after the service on Sunday morning or give our office a call.

September Results

The Numbers	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Direct Giving	17,802	**11,591**	161,294	**160,717**
Other Income	4,098	**4,009**	41,640	**61,317**
Total Income	21,900	**15,600**	202,934	**222,034**
Total Expenses	22,359	**24,921**	215,447	**214,593**
Cashflow/(Deficit)	(459)	**(9,321)**	(12,513)	**7,442**

Rene Rogers

Rene Rogers
Treasurer

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RaiseRight

Pick up a gift card to shop for all the Thanksgiving dinner ingredients. If you are starting to think of decorating for Christmas (I know it's too early!!) you can pick up a gift card for all of your decorating needs as well getting an early start on your Christmas shopping! Also, please remember we have a limited supply of gift cards on hand, available on Sunday's after worship or in the church office weekday mornings.

Thank you to **Lisa Smith & Leanne Monroe** for managing the program as well as ordering the gift cards.
Thank you to **Leanne Monroe, Lisa Smith, Margaret Yoder & Sandra Golliher** for helping with the sale of the gift cards after worship. If you would like to help sell the gift cards after worship, talk to Leanne or Lisa!

RaiseRight.

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Food Pantry

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Food Pantry Update…
97 families were in our pantry in September. 195 adults and 162 children were served. 15 families were new to our pantry. Approximately 8245 pounds of food was distributed. Thank you to those of you who have brought in food to help stock our shelves.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their continued support of our pantry. Thank you to **Henry Caron, Ray Hitz, Jody Schaick, Sherry Peppler, Sandy Folske, Carol Wiechman, Deb Kraemer, Peter Smith, Lisa Smith, Kim Winter, Meg Hable, Brad Schultz, Jim Sitter, Rick Peppler, June Baeten, Jim Schaick, Mike Winter and Dan Monroe.**

Thank you also to **Red's Piggly Wiggly, Festival Foods, Craig Geiger and 4Imprint and Silver Creek Meats** for their continued support of our pantry.

Thank you to everyone who donated food for the Scouting Food Drive! We received 481 pounds of food. Thank you Scouts!

Food Collection in November…

During the month of November, we will be collecting non-perishable food items and placing them by the altar. The food will blessed during the Thanksgiving Eve worship service on Wednesday, November 25th.

Anything you find on sale and would like to pick up and donate to the food pantry would be greatly appreciated. Cereal is always an item we are a low on and it can be expensive. So, if it's on sale please pick it up! Thank you for supporting Emmanuel's food pantry each month by bringing in the requested food items.

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Thank you

- Thank you to **Ann Stark** for providing the children's activity bags.
- Thank you to **Carol Wiechman** for replenishing the supplies in the pews.
- Thank you to **Jody Schaick, Kim Winter, Nolan Schultz, Deacon Zemlicka and Brooklyn Schultz** for running the projector during worship. Thank you to **Cory Schultz, Zach Wolf and Kim Winter** for live streaming our worship services.
- Thank you to **Deb Kraemer, Quinn Bursack, Linda Stowe and Leanne Monroe** for reading scripture during worship.
- Thank you to **Gail Hable** for maintaining the headsets for the hearing loops.
- Thank you to **Jim Schaick** for maintaining the grounds around the building and the parking lots.
- Thank you to **Lisa Smith** for updating the website and sign up genius.
- Thank you to **Cory Schultz** for updating the coffee hour tv and Facebook page.
- Thank you to **Leanne Bloedow** for maintaining the outdoor flower pots. Thank you also for updating the arrangements on the altar and throughout the building.
- Thank you to **Dennis & Karen Chapin, Ron Golliher, Mary Dinkins, Valeria Basler & Marilyn Morrison** for the set up and clean up of coffee hour so that we are able to enjoy fellowship on Sunday mornings.
- Thanks Ray!! 😊



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WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
Chime Choir – 5:30pm
Confirmation – 6:00pm
(No Confirmation November 25th)
Chancel Choir – 6:15pm

Sunday, November 8, 2026
Sunday School – 9:15am

Tuesday, November 10, 2026
Church Council Meeting – 6:30pm

Thursday, November 19, 2026
Last Thursday Worship for the season.
Thursday Worship resume February 4, 2027 – 6:30pm

Sunday, November 22, 2026
Sunday School – 9:15am

Wednesday, November 25, 2026
Thanksgiving Eve Worship with Communion – 7:00pm

Thursday, November 26, 2026
Church Office Closed

Friday, November 27, 2026
Church Office Closed. **CHRISTMAS DECORATING**
Saturday, November 28th – 9:00am

Sunday, November 29, 2026
Noisy Collection *benefitting our Sunday School Mission Project!*
– Save your change and let's make some noise!!



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A Month of Thankfulness & Gratitude!

November is a wonderful time to slow down and remember all the blessings God has given us. This month in Sunday School, we'll focus on being thankful, showing gratitude, and remembering that even the little things in life are
reasons to give thanks!
"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." — Psalm 107:1

❤️ Thank You for a Spooktacular Trunk or Treat!

A BIG thank-you to everyone who participated in our Trunk or Treat! Whether you decorated a trunk, handed out treats, volunteered your time, or brought your family to join the fun, we appreciate you helping make this event so special. We are thankful for our wonderful church family and the joy you bring to our community!

🎶 The Kids Are Singing! Sunday, November 8th

Our Sunday School children will be singing during church! We are excited to share their voices and celebrate the gifts God has given them. Thank you for helping your children be present and ready to participate.

We will also have a **special guest joining us for Sunday School** that morning! We can't wait to welcome our guest and see what the morning has in store for us.

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🎄 Christmas Program Practice Begins!

It's hard to believe, but Christmas is right around the corner! Our first Christmas program practice will be **Sunday, November 22nd**. Please make every effort to have your children attend all scheduled practices so they can learn their parts and feel confident and prepared for the big day. Every child is an important part of making our Christmas program special!

Mark Your Calendars:

- Sunday, November 22nd – First practice
- Sunday, December 6th – Practice
- Sunday, December 13th – Final practice
- **Sunday, December 20th – Christmas Program!**

We look forward to celebrating the joy of Christmas together!

🙏 A Little Gratitude Goes a Long Way

As we gather around our Thanksgiving tables this month, let's remember that gratitude is something we can practice every day. Encourage your children to name three things they are thankful for, thank someone who has helped them, or find a small way to show kindness to others. Thank you for being part of our Sunday School family. We are so thankful for each child, each family, and every volunteer who helps our ministry grow!

Blessings to you,

Emily Simons

Sunday School Superintendent
sunday.school@emmanueloshkosh.org

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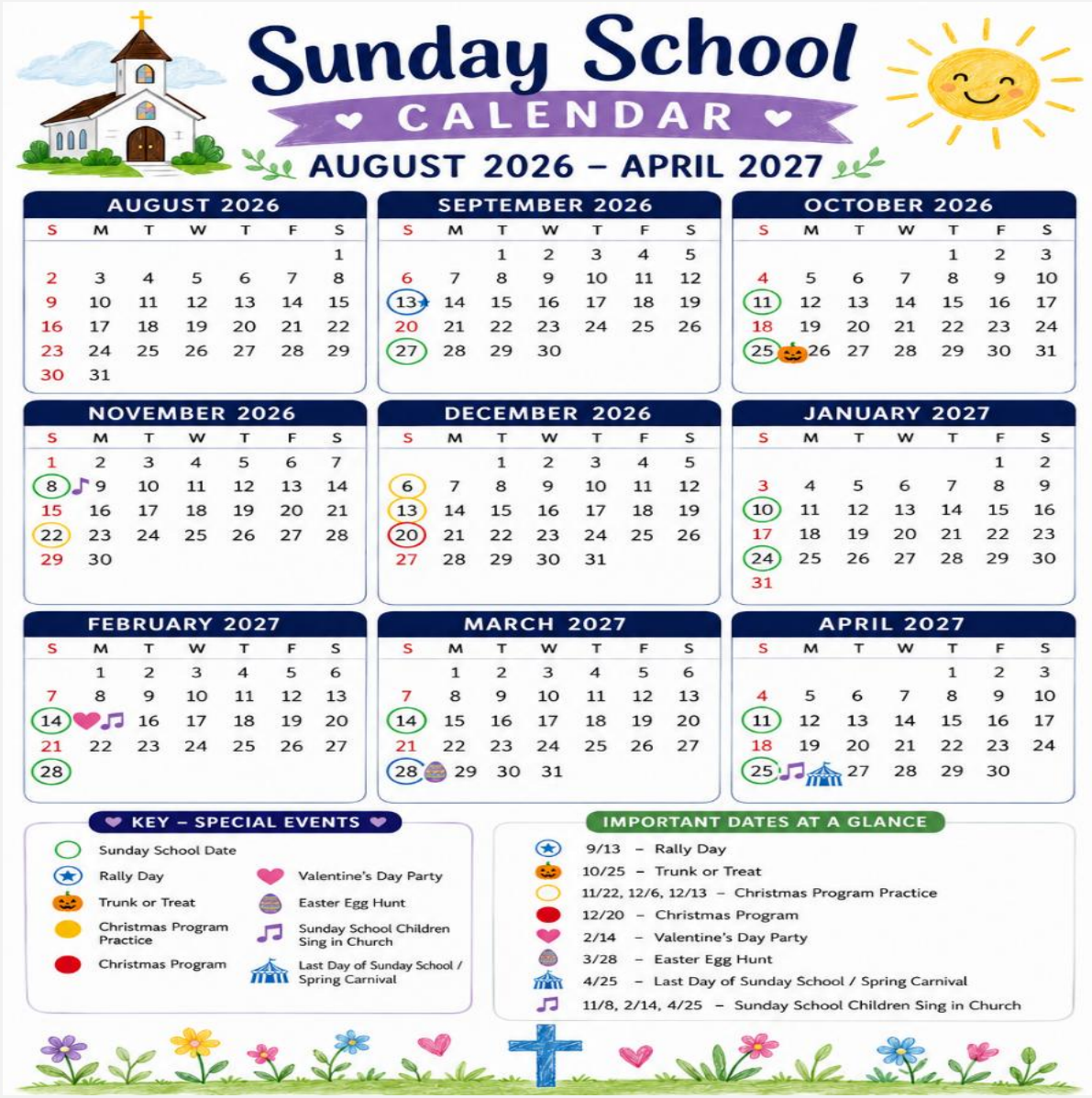
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Memorials & Honorarium



OCTOBER MEMORIAL & HONORARIUM REPORT

In loving memory of **DALE SCHELLER**

A gift to the ***Memorial Fund*** by

Tony & Judy Ambroso
Peter & Lisa Smith
Valeria Basler

In loving memory of **BEVERLY FRETCHEL**

A gift to the ***Food Pantry*** by

Tony & Judy Ambroso
Valeria Basler
Mike & Kim Winter
Jim & Jody Schaick
Mary Dinkins
Margaret Yoder
Judith Hergert
Debra Kraemer
Laurie Shavlik
John & Karen Drexler
Jean Lafrombois
Peter & Lisa Smith
Tom Stark
Mark & Bette Kinderman
Ron & Sandra Golliher
Karen Steinfort
Dan & Rene Rogers
Paul Spanbauer
Dan & Leanne Monroe
Randall & Holly Flunker
James & Annette Schwochert
Family & Friends

OCTOBER MEMORIAL & HONORARIUM REPORT

In loving memory of **JAMES FELDA**

A gift to the ***Memorial Fund*** by

Ronald & Linda VanderZander and Mary Lou Felda

In loving memory of **NORMAN LUFT**

A gift to the ***Memorial Fund*** by Ron & Sandra Golliher

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Church Council Meeting **October 13, 2026**
Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Leanne. Opening prayer by Pastor Andi.

President's Report:
Candy bar sales - going well! Still selling every other Sunday (Sunday School Sundays).
Culver's fundraiser was yesterday, it seemed like a decent crowd!
4imprint grant -Looking for suggestions as to what we should get.

Secretary's Report: Report accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed August financial reports. We had a negative cash flow of -$9,321.16 with a positive YTD of $7,441.66. Alliant Energy stock was down -$3.44 this month. Treasurer's Report accepted.

Pastor's Report: General: Programming is in full swing. Confirmation is going well. My Clergy group and Communities of Practice groups are meeting monthly. You might have noticed more and more new faces. Tom Goddard joined the church last month. Ron and Jo Anne O'Neill and Jim and Amy Thomas have asked for a letter of transfer to go out to their respective former churches. We have a number of people who faithfully attend and support the church but have chosen not to join. I think this says a great deal about the welcoming atmosphere. Last Month: I attended the reception for Tom Fritz and Sharon Ritter (along with a number of folks from EUCC) on September 21. Grant Decker was baptized September 27. This Month: I officiated at Bev Fretchel's funeral on October 6 and will be officiating at Dale Scheller's funeral October 16. The Tailgating Party on October 4 went well. Kudos to the Fellowship Committee who put a great deal of effort into the event, as well as all those who volunteered to help set up, clean up, cook and run the games. We have a meeting this Sunday, October 18, to discuss how things went and where we can improve. The cost of the event was graciously covered by a donor. Coming up we have a Memorial and Endowment meeting October 20, Soup2Go pick-up October 25, Trunks for Treats October 25, and Daylight Savings Time ends November 1.

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Church Council Meeting **October 13, 2026**

Vice President's Report: Still looking for the last trustee position.

Trustee's Report: Luebke roofing came and caulked the roof. The roof above the fellowship hall is old and needs to look at being worked on. The church belltower is all fixed! Painting projects, small repairs, just some ongoing maintenance.

New Business: Annual goal letter for OCWM, keeping the annual giving at $18500 as we had this year. The entry mat between the double doors needs to be replaced, trustees are going to look at it. Request for carpet shampooer to replace the one down in the boiler room. Motion for the carpet shampooer and the entry mat to be purchased from the building fund approved.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is on November 10th, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
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POINSETTIA & EMMANUEL CHURCH DONATIONS

We are offering the option of ordering a **Poinsettia or making a donation to Emmanuel Church** in honor or memory of a loved one this holiday season. ***If you are ordering a Poinsettia orders have to be in by DECEMBER 6TH with your payment. If you are making a donation to Emmanuel please have your donation in by December 13th.*** Please **PRINT** your information clearly. Thank you!

If you are ordering a Poinsettia, please make sure you are able to pick it up after Christmas!

Please Print		
In Memory of		
In Honor of		
Given By		
POINSETTIA *How Many?* _____	($12.00 each)	Amount $
EMMANUEL *Donation Amount*	$	

Poinsettia Deadline is December 6, 2026
Emmanuel Donation Deadline is December 13, 2026

You can also call the church office 920-235-8340 or email the church office office@emmanueloshkosh.org to place your order.

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NOVEMBER FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

We are happy to announce that we will be selling VandeWalles candy bars again in time for the holidays. The price will be $2 each. The candy bars are available weekday mornings in the church office. They will also be sold on Sunday morning, November 8th & 22nd. If you would like to purchase some at another time, please contact one of the council members. The flavors available are, Dark Chocolate, Milk Chocolate, Chocolate Truffle, Peanut Butter Meltaway, Toffee, Caramel, Caramel Nut and Mint.

We still have a few Kwik Trip Car Wash cards available for sale. Each card is $40 – good for 5 car washes. Available at the gift card table on Sunday mornings or weekdays in the church office.

Check out our website emmanueloshkosh.org for opportunities to volunteer on Sunday mornings by using SignUpGenius. Click on Get Involved and sign up to help run the projector, selling Raise Right cards after worship on Sunday, extra cleaning projects, or participate in worship by being a Liturgist or if you would like to be an usher. Sign up today! It's easy to do!

As of this Lamplighter we are still looking to fill the open position of Trustee for the 2027/28 term. If you have any questions on what this position entails, please contact a Council member to see what it is all about. Please prayerfully consider sharing your time and talents with Emmanuel by being on the Church Council. Thank you!

Church Directory...

We have been asked about the possibility of getting an updated church directory for those of you who would like one. Membership information is updated as we receive it in the office. With that said, we currently have the most updated version available to anyone who would like to have a copy. We can either email you an electronic version, or if you call the church office we would be happy to make a paper copy for anyone who would like that version of the directory. We feel it is more cost effective to have the directories available upon request, rather than make a bunch of copies that won't get picked up. However you decide you want the directory we will make sure you get one. Just let us know!

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If you would like to have an article published in our monthly Lamplighter, we ask that you have your article submitted no later than the 15th of the month. Your article can be emailed to Lori at lori.holland@emmanueloshkosh.org, or you can drop it off any weekday morning, or give the office a call 920-235-8340. We would be happy to pass along the information you would like to share.

Emmanuel welcomes Ron & Jo Anne O'Neill!

Ron grew up in rural Oshkosh. He attended Clairville School for 8 years, then attended Omro High School for 4 years. Ron then went to Fox Valley Technical School in Oshkosh for two years for Auto Mechanics. He attended First English Lutheran Church with his family; that is where he was baptized, confirmed etc.

Jo Anne attended Holy Trinity Catholic School for 7 ears in Jericho (that's Jericho WI; not he Jericho from the bible). Born and raised in Jericho, baptized, confirmed etc. at Holy Trinity. I attended Chilton High School for 4 years. Attended weekly Masses at Holy Trinity until the church CLOSED in 2005.

Ron and I began then to attend his church; First English until covid, then started attending Zion Lutheran on Sawyer Street.

We were married on November 16, 2001. We own and operate a hobby farm on 9th Street here in Oshkosh but reside on Clairville Road Oshkosh. We have been doing the fall décor project since 2001, in addition to raising several other crops on 16 acres.

Ron's son Jesse lives in Jefferson WI with his wife Heather and daughter Olivia.

Our 'other' family includes two Border Collies...Jake and Max. They begin and complete our days.

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As we turn another page in our calendars,
It's time to think about Emmanuel's upcoming "Giving Tree."

This special tree was originally called "The Bunny Tree"…then "The Mitten Tree" – sponsored by Daughters of Sarah. Renamed as the "Giving Tree," it will be located in the lower narthex, and again be collecting warm weather items for members of our community in need for the upcoming winter weather and will be given at Christmas.

If you knit, warm scarves are always appreciated. Men's items most often needed are warm socks and/or gloves and hats. (Hint: Goodwill stores have brand new packs of thermal socks on sale) Colorful scarves, mittens/gloves were given to a local school last year, where they were given to children who had none. Father Carr's Place To Be has been a recipient of women's and children's items over the years, but wherever they go, our gifts are always very much appreciated.

It's time to plan ahead! Items can be dropped off with The Tree Gals…Carolyn, Marilyn or Valeria at Sunday's Fellowship Hour…put in the Lower Level Narthex closet…or give them to Mary Dinkins or Lori in the office. They will be put under tree as soon as it's up!!

Thank you in advance for your help in making the holidays a little brighter (and warmer) for our neighbors!!

When planning your holiday shopping, please remember our own Food Pantry!!

"FAMILY" CHRISTMAS TREES

We would once again like to extend an invitation to everyone in the church, the opportunity to have an ornament representing their family on our "Family" Christmas trees in the upper narthex. If you would like to add an ornament on the tree, please bring it to the church office and we will enter it in the log book and place it on the tree. Thank you!

Please join us on Saturday, November 28th at 9:00am to help decorate the church for Christmas. If you can only come for a short time, that's ok! The more hands we have to help, the faster things will go!

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CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS AT EAA CAMPGROUNDS

This year Emmanuel will be collecting food for our pantry at Celebration of Lights (COL) **Sunday, December 27th thru Friday, December 31st.** We will need volunteers to manage two huts this year. It would be great if there were two people per hut. COL would like to have the huts covered for the whole shift of **5:15pm until 9:00pm(ish)** instead of splitting shifts. However, if it is impossible for you to be there the whole shift we can make arrangements to split the time. This is a great opportunity for us to receive nutritional food items to help fill our pantry shelves, to help those in need in our community this winter. Please consider getting your family together and spread some holiday cheer as you collect food for Emmanuel's food pantry. You also get to check out the lights for free!! Call or email the church office if you are interested in helping out. (920-235-8340 – office@emmanueloshkosh.org) We have detailed instructions available for those wanting to volunteer.

WINNEBAGO MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE'S 2026 CHRISTMAS PROJECT

As the holiday season approaches, WMHI invites you to include the patients of WMHI in your seasonal plans. Spending the holidays in a hospital setting can be an incredibly stressful experience. At WHMI, they are dedicated to providing the highest quality of care and treatment-a responsibility they hold with the utmost respect. Their staff work tirelessly to bring a personal, compassionate touch to every patient's stay.

Your generosity directly helps them fulfill this commitment. Donations ensure that every single patient receives a thoughtful gift during the holidays and on their birthday.

You will find a list of what is needed on the bulletin board in the entryway, along with instructions on where they can be delivered. Gifts need to be delivered to WMHI no later than the first week in December.

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We had a great time at the Tailgate party on October 4th. We were able to enjoy the wonderful weather, participate in games and enjoy some great food and fellowship!
We would like to thank the many volunteers who put this event together.

Thank you to **Pastor Andi, Bruce & Quinn Bursack, Andrea Schneider, Liz Schultz, Randy & Connie Whittaker, Dennis & Karen Chapin, Cory & Brooklyn Schultz, Ron Golliher, Peter & Lisa Smith, Mike & Kim Winter, Dan & Leanne Monroe, Henry Caron, Brenton Brown, Easton Kraemer, Emrik Davies, Donna & Hoyt Felker, Deb Kraemer & Ray Hitz.** Thank you also to **Tom Stark** for lending us the canopy.

Hello members of Emmanuel UCC. My name is Tom Goddard, formal is Thomas W. Goddard V and I have been asked by Pastor Andi and Lori to share a little bit about myself for I have just formally asked for membership here at Emmanuel. I was born and raised in Brillion, WI and for the most part have had a Lutheran church background, but have attended others. I've actually been attending here at Emmanuel fairly regularly for quite some time, and the Thursday night group knows me pretty well and most of the Sunday I think. I am a Funeral Director here in Oshkosh and have been licensed as such since 1986. I've always felt called to what I do and in the past couple of years I have been looking for a church to really "call" me. This one has, and why do you ask? It is first and foremost how FRIENDLY all of you are! Always welcoming. It's wonderful. Also, and equally important it is your Pastor, having worked with her professionally many times I really see a lot and walk away with a lot from her message either when at church or at funerals. This church is blessed to have her! And the music here, Mary is amazing and you are equally blessed to have her talents. If you want to know more about me just pull me aside I'm a pretty open book. Thank you and God Bless. Emmanuel (God With Us). Welcome to Emmanuel Tom!!

Greeters are needed…
We all appreciate a warm welcome on Sunday morning. For people visiting, it is especially important. Being greeted and having someone answer a question or two can be the difference between a one-time visitor and a new member. Please consider being a Greeter. If you are interested, contact the church office.

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We had a great time at the Tailgate party on October 4th. We were able to enjoy the wonderful weather, participate in games and enjoy some great food and fellowship!
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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!

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.

JOIN US & ENJOY THEOSHKOSH WEST MADRIGALS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2026 - BEFORE WORSHIP AT 8:45AM

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!

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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	Sherri Annis
Sandy Golliher	Margaret Yoder

Pastoral Relations Committee:

Sandra Golliher	Kay Lund
Julie Barthels	Lori Potratz

Please consider volunteering for any of these committees, please contact the church office 235-8340 if you are interested.

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Click **HERE** for our online calendar.

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

Visit us on social media.

