



**Welcome to ReFresh at Emmanuel
(Restoring Energy, Faith, and Relevance to Every Soul's Heart)
June 28, 2026**

Welcome to ReFresh at Emmanuel

Welcome Visitors! We extend a special welcome to our visitors. Thank you for worshiping with us. We strive to live as a Safe and Healing Spiritual Community for all who come, regardless of socio-economic status, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or spiritual path. All are welcome in this holy space.

We invite you to worship with us on Sundays at our 8:30 am Emmanuel Traditional Worship Service in the chapel or our ReRefresh 10:30 am Service either in person or on ZOOM. The Recorded Service is available on Facebook after the service.

To gather online by computer, tablet, or smartphone, use the following link.
<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/82726742888?pwd=WFewOVbXZGd3OHFzSXQ1WXIVTHppZz09>

Don't forget to sign the greeting cards for our Emmanuel Family Members.
The cards are on the table in front of the Celebration Room.

Assisting in Worship Today

Presider: Pastor Frank Langholf

Lector: Susan Hurley-Whitacre

Coordinator of Music Ministry: Tim Fenelon

Special Music: Emmanuel Choir

Accompanist: Clea Arbogast

Altar Guild: Dave & Susan Whitacre

Consultant: Bill Houtkamp

Sound: Andrew Ehrhardt

Greeting Cards: Taj Guzzardo

Yoga With Claudette Pirrello, Mondays at 5:00 pm

Cardio Drumming, Mondays at 4:00 pm, Call Beth, (815) 742-0548, to join

Spiritual Journey's on Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 am on Zoom

Bible Study on Wednesdays at Noon on zoom.

Dial 312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 893 5688 8344 Passcode: 11999

To join by a land line or cell phone, dial the number above and then enter the meeting ID and passcode when prompted.

Silent meditation practice in the Benson Room: Thursdays from 5:30 – 6:15pm.

All are welcome. Enter by parking lot entrance. Questions or text Sara 815-742-0581.

Date: June 28, 2026 - Theme: Stonewall/Advocacy

Prelude: Selection Clea Arbogast

Welcome: Pastor Frank Langholf

Meditation: "When the world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful."
— Malala Yousafzai

Our Community Declaration:

**Guided by Spirit's Wisdom, Inspired by Creator's Imagination,
Centered in Christ's Love, and knowing that God is our Source,
Emmanuel is a Spiritual Community that is progressive, inclusive, creative, and
called to serve.**

Opening of the Heart

**When we have had power, we forgot what it is for. We raised ourselves further
up.**

**We have not used our gifts to speak truth to power in love, to lift up the voices
of those beaten down.**

**When we have been weak, we have let ourselves be told we are broken beyond
repair, and forgot the promise that each of us is Your child, made in Your image.**

**We have listened to the siren song of the world that says what we get is what
we deserve.**

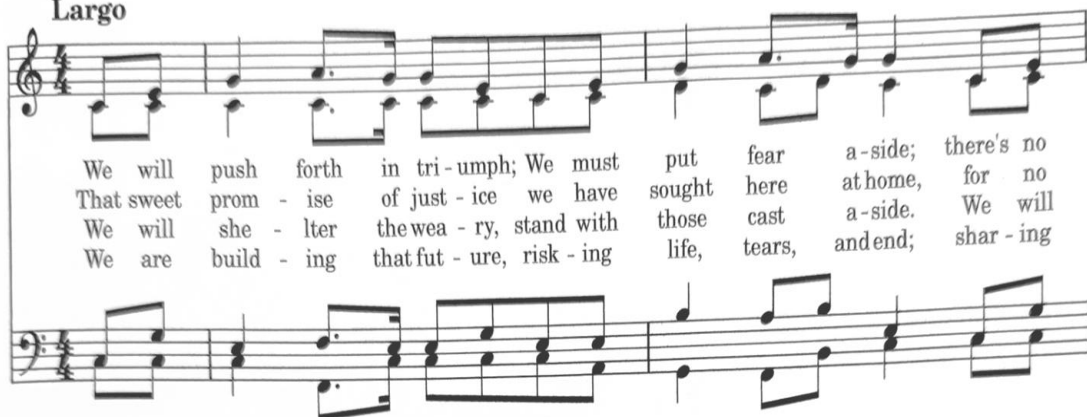
We have forgotten your grace. In this space, remind us.

Proclamation of Grace:

Presider: Hear the good news! God has not watched from far way, but has come
near to be with us, to free us from our pain, and to offer us new life. God has
declared that we are not separate, but children of one family, united in Jesus our
Lord.

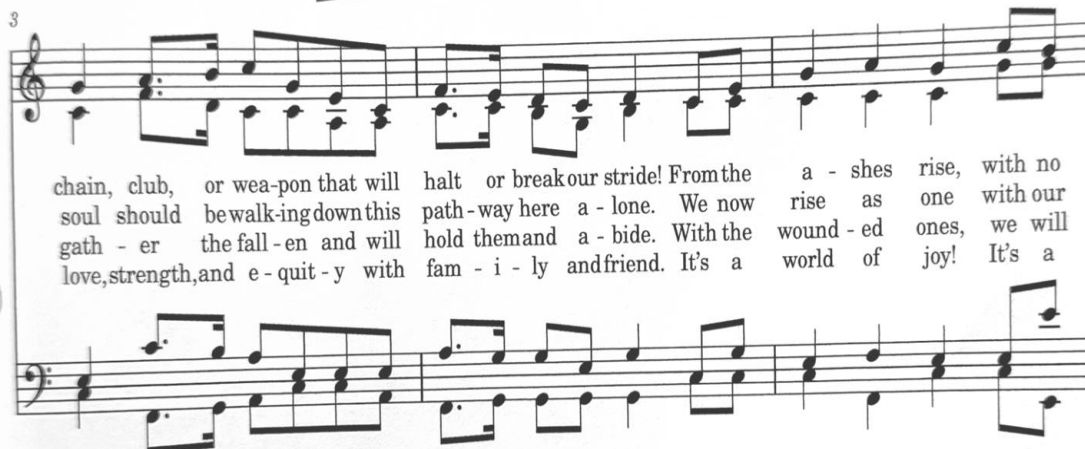
Gathering Song: Stonewall—by Andrew Mertenich

Largo



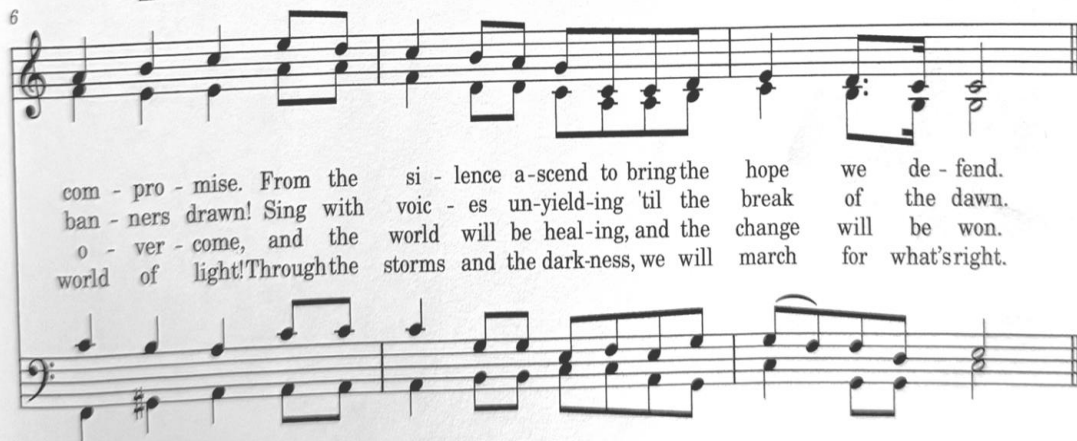
We will push forth in tri-umph; We must put fear a-side; there's no
That sweet prom - ise of just - ice we have sought here at home, for no
We will she - lter the wea - ry, stand with those cast a-side. We will
We are build - ing that fut - ure, risk - ing life, tears, and end; shar - ing

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chain, club, or wea-pon that will halt or break our stride! From the a - shes rise, with no
soul should be walk-ing down this path-way here a - lone. We now rise as one with our
gath - er the fall - en and will hold them and a - bide. With the wound - ed ones, we will
love, strength, and e - quit - y with fam - i - ly and friend. It's a world of joy! It's a

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com - pro - mise. From the si - lence a - scend to bring the hope we de - fend.
ban - ners drawn! Sing with voic - es un - yield - ing 'til the break of the dawn.
o - ver - come, and the world will be heal - ing, and the change will be won.
world of light! Through the storms and the dark - ness, we will march for what's right.

First Reading by—Carla D. Wilson Laskey

SAFE ZONE: I am an ally! I am not gay, lesbian, transgendered, pansexual, intersex, or asexual. However, I am understanding. I am non-judgmental. I am here to listen. I am here to support.

Second Reading. Let There Be Pride—by Richard Blanco (Responsive)

To remember every stone thrown by our mother-fathers at Stonewall, to keep applauding their kick lines that fired-up our fight for freedom, to hear their voices still singing against the nightsticks of hate. **Let there be Pride.**

To unfold our AIDS quilts again over the lawn of our memory, to read aloud the names of our lost souls still stitched in our souls, to wrap ourselves in the colors of their lives that still color ours, to give thanks for their fight that let us survive to remember them. **Let there be Pride.**

To keep loving the queer child in all of us who grew up like me, terrified of our own beautiful selves, knowing home was a place we had yet to find, to keep the faith we found on that long journey we took toward that somewhere over the rainbow. **Let there be Pride.**

To never let Matthew Shepard die again, to raise-up every teenager high on our shoulders and let them see the parades of their kind celebrating their worthy lives, nevermore to be taken by others or by themselves. **Let there be Pride.**

To kiss again our first kiss against lips the same as ours exploding like a star in us, to walk again hand-in hand with our first loves the first time we dared to strut our tenderness down sidewalks, to never again be the shamed selves we let die, to be reborn unashamed as a full moon. **Let there be Pride.**

To keep silencing the words that keep trying to silence us, to keep renaming ourselves as she/he/them, to keep spreading our language of love is love, and always will be love, to keep our right at the altar to say: *I do, I do, I do.* **Let there be Pride.**

Continued...

To praise our hands brushing away life's dark anguish onto brilliant canvases, to laud our ears listening to strangers' sorrows in the mirror until they see their truth in ours, to revere our minds thinking from our hearts, to forgive the unforgivable in ourselves and others. **Let there be Pride.**

"Owning our story and loving ourselves through that process is the bravest thing we'll ever do." — Brené Brown, "The Gifts of Imperfection"

"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are." -ee cumming

Scripture/Meditation Song: Open Your Hearts (Covenant 336) Verse 1

Open your hearts, all you who hear this,

Open your hearts to know God's love,

Open your hearts to hear his message: Jesus makes us one.

Scripture: From Psalm 69: 1-5; 34-36 —Nan Merrill's Psalms for Praying

Come to my aid, O Beloved!

For my fears threaten to drown me.

I sink in the mire of confusion, where there is no foothold;

I have entered deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.

I am exhausted from weeping; I thirst as in a desert.

I no longer see the path while waiting for your return.

More in number than the hairs of my head are the fears that I carry;

So mighty are they, the walls that I built can no longer withstand them.

What must I do, O Merciful One, to be at peace once again?

Let heaven and earth praise the Creator,
the seas and all that dwell therein.

For in the Most High lies our salvation,
the healing of the nations;

And we, the people of the Eternal One,
are invited, we are called,
to co-creation, to cooperation;

Thus will future generations inherit the planet renewed,
and those who live the way of Love
shall dwell with Love forever. Amen

Presider: These are the words of an early Jewish community.

All: **May we find wisdom for our living.**

Sermon: **Pastor Frank Langholf**

Offering

Presider: We take this time now to offer our gifts and intentions.

Special Music: **How Could Anyone?**—Libby Roderick; arr. by Mac Huff
Emmanuel Choir

Time for Gratitude

Prayer Song and Response: **Sacred Fire**

**Sacred fire, burning before me,
Burning within me, deep in my soul,
Sacred fire, transforming fire,
Recreate me,
Make me whole.**

Prayers of the People

Julaine, Ray, Wanie, Norm, Jennie, Gary, Randy
Deborah, Jerry, Miguel, Steve, Jim, Andrea, Ruth Ann, Josie

The Lord's Prayer— int. by GERALYN

**Our Holy Mother
who art in the heavens
Hallowed be your cycles**

**Your tears will come
Your breath will follow
On earth as it is our heaven**

**Give us this day our sacred knowing
Help us to remember our divine bodies
belong**

**As we help all others remember too
And may we not slip behind the veil
But continue to seek connection
For thine is the body, the seasons, and
the presence.**

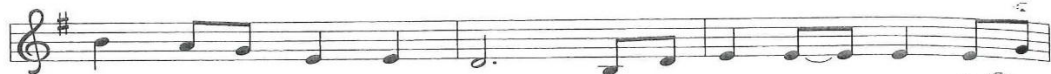
Forever and ever. Amen.

Announcements

Sending Song: Canticle of the Turning (ELW 723)



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Benediction/Sharing of Peace

Dear Emmanuel Community,

On behalf of the marketing and communications committee, we are pleased to present a survey that will help guide Emmanuel through the threshold we find ourselves on the cusp of.

This committee was formed in late 2025, as we explored opportunities for growth through a marketing lens. During our annual community meeting on January 25th, 2026, the marketing and communications committee presented an array of opportunities, including opportunities for reclaiming our identity through name, branding, mission and values, website, and our in-person and online presence.

In the survey linked below, we seek input from our valued community members. Survey questions cover potential operating names, branding colors, logos, and more. Your input is vital as we navigate the opportunities presented by this transition. A strong brand identity ensures community recognition, consistency on marketing and communication materials, and an opportunity to message our values and identity.

To be clear, this survey will guide decision making, but will not be the sole deciding factor. The survey allows us to gain a pulse on our community's thoughts around this topic. As a reminder, the name "Emmanuel Lutheran Church" will continue to be our legal name. We are surveying for thoughts on potential chosen names, which would be used for our ministries, events, and spreading the word about our community. This operating name may appeal more to the broader community. This appeal can help us attract and welcome in new folks, bring in dynamic and diverse perspectives, and grow as a spiritual community. All of these aspects are important for the longevity of Emmanuel.

After survey results are in, the marketing and communications committee will present their findings to Council. Guidance will be given on how to move forward and results will be shared with our entire community.

Continued...

We understand that a change in branding can feel like a change of identity. We suggest viewing this opportunity as a chance to stand fully in our identity. Emmanuel is a spiritual community, meant for all people of all faiths. We embrace the arts, the environment, and all those who walk through our doors, regardless of spiritual path. To honor our community standards and embrace new folks into our community, we ask that you participate in this survey with an open mind and open heart.

This survey will be open through July 22. Please amplify your voice through this survey. We value the opinions of our community and want to ensure that all paths moving forward are appropriately explored.

Sincerely,

The Marketing and Communications Committee
Holly Hansen, Andrea Wallace-Noble, Brendan Noble, Jim Roberts, Christyn Rittenhouse

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Below is the link to the survey developed by the team. You are invited to light a candle before you take the survey, and invite the Spirit to stir within you as you do the survey.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnAEyoYOaQRzmg2GxFm7p5g6\\_Ocx6LziniSUAFVhRjl9oGAw/viewform?usp=dialog](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnAEyoYOaQRzmg2GxFm7p5g6_Ocx6LziniSUAFVhRjl9oGAw/viewform?usp=dialog)

**Allison Ruth Downie**

December 15, 1979 - May 21, 2026

A Celebration of Life will be held 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 8, 2026 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Visitation will be from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. prior to the service.

## Women's Interfaith Potlucks

All women are invited to attend the interfaith potlucks, listed below, which start at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass. Plates, silverware, and beverages will be provided, but you are always welcome to bring your own plate and silverware if you wish.

- **Monday, June 29, 2026**, at Zion Lutheran Church, 925 - 5th Ave., Rockford. (NOTE: enter at rear door, next to the fire escape; If no one is at the door, push the button marked Kitchen and someone will open it.) The program will be "In Our Own Voice", through Northern Illinois NAMI, with an inspiring panel of women discussing their personal experiences with mental illness.

## Rockford 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration

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### Morning Kickoff

**7:00 AM** – Lifescape 5K Classic Run/Walk Begins

**8:30 AM & 9:00 AM** – Patriotic Prayer Breakfast - Beattie Park

**9:00 AM** – Cars & Coffee Rockford - RPS 205 Parking Lot

Hosted by Katie's Cup Coffee Bar

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### Afternoon & Evening Festivities

**1:00 PM** – Road Closures Begin

**1:00 PM** – Figure Skating Show - Riverview Ice House

Presented by the Rockford Park District

**4:00 PM** – Vendors Open

 Water Street & City Market Pavilion

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### Parade Events

**4:30 PM** – Parade Master of Ceremonies (*TBD*)

 Parade Grand Stand Stage at the Joe Marino Statue

**4:40 PM** – Motorcycle Parade Begins

**4:50 PM** – Screw City Jeep Club Parade Begins

**5:00 PM** – Patriotic Parade Begins

 **Live Entertainment - 6:00 PM** – DIRTY POP Live at the City Market Stage

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## **Fireworks Spectacular**

**9:00 PM** – All Vendors Stop Sales

**9:30 PM** – Firework Spectacle Over Downtown Rockford

 Synchronized to a soundtrack broadcast on **103.1 FM**

 Broadcast LIVE on **FOX39**

 Fireworks launched from the Jefferson Street Bridge

**10:00 PM** – Fireworks Conclude & Event Ends

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## **Road & River Closure Information - Bridge Closures**

- **Closed July 3 at 12:00 PM through July 4 at Midnight:**

*Jefferson Street Bridge (at East Jefferson & North 1st St / West Jefferson & Wyman St)*

- **Pedestrian Path Under Jefferson Street Bridge:**
  - Closed July 3 and reopens July 5

- **Bridges CLOSED All Evening July 4:**

*Jefferson Street Bridge - State Street Bridge - Chestnut Street Bridge*

- **Bridges OPEN All Day/Evening July 4:**

*Whitman Street Bridge - Auburn Street Bridge - Morgan Street Bridge*

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## **Parade Route & Downtown Access**

- **July 4, 2:00 PM** – Parade route roads downtown will close
- **After Parade Conclusion:**
  - Barricades will be repositioned from the outer parade perimeter to the core event area (Water St / City Market / State St Bridge area)
  - This will restore additional **downtown access and parking options**

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emmanuelchurch07@gmail.com elcrockford.org  
Pastor Frank Langholf, phone 309-509-5241, email: [fslangholf@gmail.com](mailto:fslangholf@gmail.com)