



**Welcome to ReFresh at Emmanuel
(Restoring Energy, Faith,
and Relevance to Every Soul's Heart)
April 28, 2024**

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 economic conditions, race, sexual orientation, gender identity or spiritual path. All are welcome in this holy space.

We invite you to worship with us on Sundays at our 9:00 am Calvary/Emmanuel Traditional Worship Service in the chapel or our ReFresh 10:30 am Service either in person or on ZOOM. The Recorded Service will be 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 Langholz

Lector: Holly Blair Cascio

Musicians: Kelli and Josh Luebke

Accompanist: Clea Arbogast

Usher: Dena Rasmussen

Altar Guild: Jan & Gary Peterson

Consultant: Bill Houtkamp

Sound: Andrew Ehrhardt

Greeting Cards: Taj Guzzardo

Yoga With Claudette Pirrello, Mondays at 5:00 pm

Cardio Drumming With Beth Campisi Mondays at Emmanuel

Adaptive Cardio Drumming--Mondays 4:00-5:00

Regular Cardio Drumming--Mondays 6:00-7:00

Spiritual Journeys - Tuesday group - 9:30 - 11:00am

Questions, Contact Karen VanHowe at karenvanhowe@gmail.com

Bible Study on Wednesdays at Noon on zoom.

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

Belly Dance Choreography: Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm

Date: April 28, 2024 Theme: The Welcoming of the Stranger

Prelude: Clea Arbogast

Welcome: Pastor Frank Langholf

Meditation: You are a part of me I do not yet know. —Valerie Kaur

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 —

Blessed are the wanderers,
Seeking affirmation.

**Blessed are the worshipers,
Praying from closets,
Pulpits, pews, and hardship.**

Blessed are the lovers of leaving—
Leaving family and familiarity,
Leaving tables
Where love is not being served.

Blessed are those who stay.

Blessed are those
Who hunger and thirst for justice —
For they will be satisfied.

**Blessed are the
Disciples of Truth,
Living, breathing, sacred
Reflections of Divine Love**

Proclamation of Grace:

Presider: The Good News is we are beloved children of God. We live in the promise of Christ, and NOTHING can ever separate us from God's love.

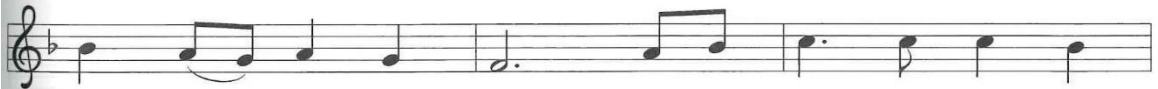
Gathering Song: All Are Welcome (ELW 641)



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

First Reading —Valerie Kaur

Seeing no stranger begins in wonder. It is to look upon the face of anyone and choose to say: You are a part of me I do not know. Wonder is the wellspring of love...It is easy to wonder about the internal life of the people closest to us. It is harder to wonder about people who seem like strangers or outsiders. But when we choose to wonder about people we don't know, when we imagine their lives and listen for their stories, we begin to expand the circle of we see as part of us. We prepare ourselves to love beyond what evolution requires.

Second Reading—Henri Nouwen

True hospitality is welcoming the stranger. On her own terms. This kind of hospitality can only be offered by those who've found the center of their lives in their own hearts.

Scripture/Meditation Song: Spirit of the Living God (BC 355)

The image shows a musical score for the song "Spirit of the Living God" in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line, and guitar chords are indicated above the guitar line. The chords are: F, F7, Gmi/Bb, D/A, Gmi, F/C, Bb/C, C, F, Bb/C, F, F7, Gmi, D/A, Gmi7, F/C, Bb/C, C7, F, F7, Bb, Bbmi/Eb, F, Dmi, G, Csus, C, C7, F, F7, Gmi, D/A, Gmi7, F/C, Bb/C, C7, F.

Spir- it of the liv- ing God, fall fresh on me. Spir- it of the
liv- ing God, fall fresh on me. Melt me. Mold me. Fill me.
Use me. Spir- it of the liv- ing God, fall fresh on me.

Scripture: Matthew 25: 31-46?

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Presider: This is the witness of an early Christian community.

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

Sermon: **Pastor Frank Langholf**

Offering

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

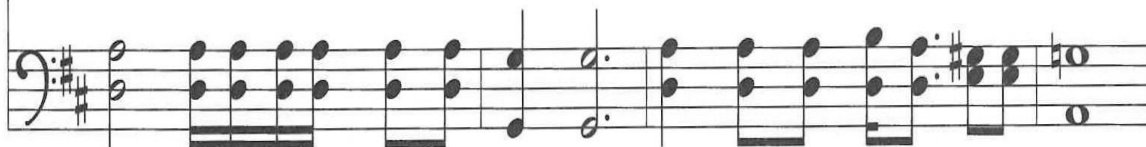
Special Music: Josh and Kelli Luebke

Time for Gratitude

Prayer Song and Response: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (ELW 752)



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.



Prayers of the People

Jonathan Chell	Shannon	Jeff Birch	Tim Austin
Ian, Joel, and Rick	Jim Petzold	Peg Burns	Bina Holland
Karen Johnson	Miguel	Judy	Walt
Beverly	Noreen Mackey	“CeCe”	Kim and brother, Gary

The Lord’s Prayer Original version from *Celebrating One World*, 1998.

Creator God, Ancient of days, Holy Parent of all worlds: may your sacred names be praised! May your presence create a common wealth of mercy and, peace. Your will for us always is love and so we pray: may your love be done on earth as it is in eternity.

Give all of us each day the bread we need and hope for all who hunger for your life.

And as we share our bread along the way, pardon us the times we've broken faith. Forgive our lack of love and move us quickly to forgiveness when wrongs are done to us. Do not abandon us in the times of testing.

Save us from evil's every incarnation, from the powers that possess our spirits and our structures.

Infuse us with your liberating joy!

For you live in the grace of the power that is love, now and forever.

May it be so, AMEN

Announcements

Sending Song: May My Hands Do the Work—Jim Roberts

May my hands do the work I was sent here to do

May my ears know the truth from the lies,

May my voice speak with justice,

May I walk unafraid,

May I see with compassionate eyes.

Benediction/Sharing of Peace

Soul Garden Hiking

Winnebago County Forest Preserves Interest Hikes

Join Soul Garden for continued hiking experiences in the Winnebago County Forest Preserves. Dress for the weather! Contact Holly if you want to join the hikes. 815-543-1191. **All hikes start at 9:00 am.**

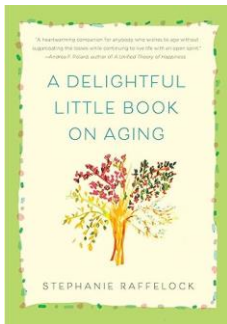
Note the date change: **Thursday, May 2nd 9:00am**

Deer Run Forest Preserve, 5691 River Road, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Women's Interfaith Potluck:

All women are welcome to attend the Women's Interfaith Potluck. The next scheduled potluck is on Monday, April 29, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Inscape Collective, 201 - 7th St., Rockford. Shiraz Tat and Denise Colin will speak on "Taking Care of Ourselves: The first step in taking care of our community". Also, that evening the Inscape Collective store will be open from 5:30 to 6 pm and following the talk.

You are welcome to bring a dish to pass. Plates, silverware, and beverages provided.



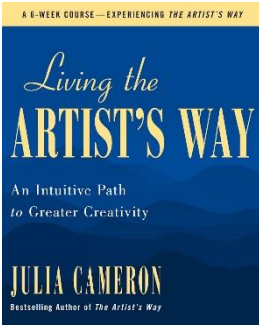
Spiritual Journeys Started a New Book on Tuesday, April 3rd. **"A Delightful Little Book on Aging" by Stephanie Raffelock**

Spiritual Journeys meets every Tuesday morning 9:30-11:00am over zoom.

Any questions, Contact Karen VanHowe at karenavanhowe@gmail.com

The NEW zoom link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82445830943?pwd=NkFTY2htRHZVSG9ITFpNT3ZtZlJlUT09>



**Join Susan Goldberg in a 6-Week Discussion Group,
Starting Tuesday, April 16th**

All are welcome to attend a discussion group about Julia Cameron's new book "Living the Artist's Way: An Intuitive Path to Greater Creativity".

The group meet on six consecutive Tuesdays to cover each chapter, starting on April 16th. And will continue through May 21st, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 920 3rd Avenue (on the corner of 3rd Avenue and 6th Street). We will meet in the Celebration Room or the Library. Enter at the north door, off of the parking lot.

No cost to attend, but you will need to have a copy of the book--you can find it in bookstores, online, and maybe at a library. Plan to read the first chapter in advance of our first session.

You are welcome to attend as many or as few sessions as you wish.

See Susan Goldberg, or email her at s.brazas@comcast.net if you are interested in participating. Bring a snack to share, if you wish, we will have hot tea and water available.

**Sing Joys of Spring Art Show -Friday, May 3rd 6:00-8:30
Opening Reception in the Gallery**

@ Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 920 Third Avenue, Rkfd, IL 61104

Sing Joys of Spring is a mixed media art show. Artists will use various media to explore art through the joy and beauty of spring. Whether it's illuminating beauty, spiritual experiences, hope, healing, transformation or quest for peace and justice, artist's passion for the creative process will manifest in
Join us at Emmanuel for this inspiring show!

The art will be on display at Emmanuel through July.

Care for Creation Committee

The Care for Creation Committee needs volunteers to help plant our pollinator prairie. The planting date is Saturday, May 18th at 9:00 am. We can also use some volunteers to water once a month. Please contact Taj at 779-770-3520

It's the Season to Think about Scholarships

The following are Scholarships offered by Emmanuel Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, please contact Jack Ream at jkream@juno.com or Rich Lundin at cepackratrich@gmail.com. If you would like an application, please contact the church office at emmanuelchurch07@gmail.com or pick one up on the table near the elevator. The deadline to have the application submitted is May 31, 2024.

LUNDE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Available to either a male or female member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church who will be a college junior, senior, or graduate student in any area of college study.

OLSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Available to members of Emmanuel, to high school seniors, and to college students that attend a Christian church for purposes of general education, including higher education and college studies, or for any other educational purposes.

WALQUIST MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Available to members of Emmanuel, to high school seniors, and to college students who are members of a Lutheran Church in the Rockford area and who are enrolled in college studies, and for any other educational purposes.

Selections will be based on many criteria:

1. Spiritual involvement and motivation.
2. Scholastic achievement.
3. Financial need.
4. Leadership and extra-curricular activity.
5. Strength of recommendations.
6. Quality of application materials.

The Robert C. and Phyllis J. Sio Scholarship Fund

The Robert C. and Phyllis J. Sio Scholarship Fund has been established to support undergraduate education scholarships for two students at \$1,500 per student. The following general guidelines shall be used by the Emmanuel Lutheran Scholarship Committee to administer this fund:

- 1) The scholarship shall be used to support undergraduate education only.
- 2) The student must attend an accredited Christian college.
- 3) The scholarship is intended to support tuition expenses only.
- 4) Applicants shall be members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church and/or seniors at Christian Life High School, Rockford Christian High School or Rockford Lutheran High School.
- 5) Two separate scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded annually to two students. Grantees may receive no more than two annual scholarships.
- 6) Selections will be based on many different criteria including spiritual involvement and motivation, scholastic achievement, financial need, leadership and extra-curricular activity, strength of recommendations and quality of application materials (not necessary in that order).
- 7) A letter of notification will be sent to all applicants by the end of June.
- 8) The funds distribution will take place prior to the beginning of the grantee's fall semester and after receiving confirmation of enrollment at the college (i.e.: class schedule).
- 9) Please understand that the decisions of Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council, in granting the scholarships, will be final. The scholarship is a gift and requires no repayment. Emmanuel Lutheran Church reserves the right to publish the names of scholarship recipients in the media.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 920 Third Avenue, Rockford, IL 61104

Mailing address, P. O. Box 4362, Rockford, IL 61110

815-963-4815 Fax: 815-963-4808 emmanuelchurch07@gmail.com elcrockford.org

Pastor Frank Langholf, phone 309-509-5241, email: fslangholf@gmail.com