



**Welcome to ReFresh at Emmanuel
(Restoring Energy, Faith, and Relevance to Every Soul's Heart)
July 12, 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 ReFresh 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 Brazas Goldberg

Guest Musicians: Tim and Emily Austin,
Tom and Fran Wilson

Accompanist: Clea Arbogast

Altar Guild: Brendan Noble

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: July 12, 2026 — Service in Labyrinth, weather permitting

**Theme: Living in the South—What gift does the Child bring?
(Innocence, Playfulness)**

Prelude: As We Seek —by Dave Bilbrough

**Verse 1: As we seek Your face
May we know Your heart
Feel Your presence acceptance
As we seek Your face**

**Verse 2: At Your feet we fall
Our Sovereign Lord
We cry holy, holy
At Your feet we fall**

**Verse 3: Jesus draw me close, closer, Lord to you
Let the world fade around me, Jesus, draw me close.**

Repeat Verse 1

Welcome Pastor Frank Langholf

Meditation: "The child is innocence and forgetting, a new beginning, a game, a self-rolling wheel, a first movement, a holy Yes." — Friedrich Nietzsche

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 —Directions: Welcoming the South

We turn to the South The midday sun high above us in blue cloudless sky. We welcome the child around us and within. The child plays in the sunshine..splashes in the rain. Exuberantly at home in nature. Spontaneously expressing herself with abandon. How shall we join in childlike play? Unless you be little children you cannot enter the kingdom of God.

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: Morning Has Broken (ELW 556)

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

First Reading by Don Miguel Ruiz, “Οι Τέσσερις Συμφωνίες”

The real you is still a little child who never grew up. Sometimes that little child comes out when you are having fun or playing, when you feel happy, when you are painting, or writing poetry, or playing the piano, or expressing yourself in some way. These are the happiest moments of your life – when the real you comes out, when you don't care about the past and you don't worry about the future. You are childlike.

Second Reading. By Hafiz

Every child has known God,
Not the God of names,
Not the God of don'ts,
Not the God who ever does anything weird,
But the God who knows only four words,
And keeps repeating them, saying:
“Come Dance with Me, come dance.

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: Genesis 2: 4-25

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up— for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Continued...

Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold, and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken."

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

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

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

Sermon: **Pastor Frank Langholf**

Offering

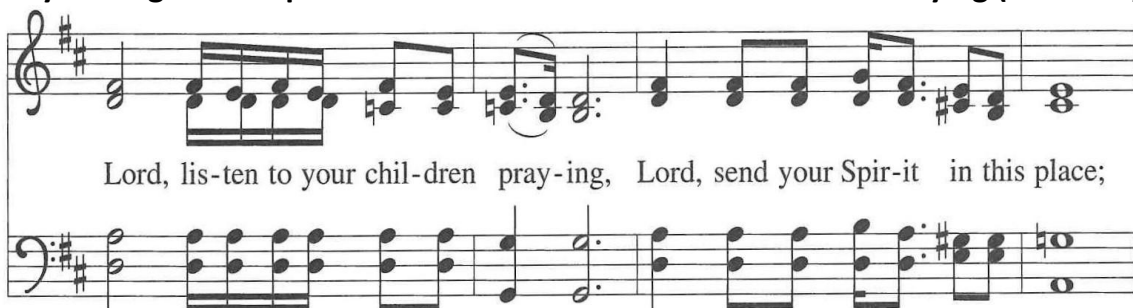
Presider: We take this time now to offer our gifts and intentions.

Special Music: **I Love You Lord** by Laurie Klein

I love You; Lord and I lift my voice
To worship You, oh my soul, rejoice!
Take joy my King in what You hear
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.

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;

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major. The treble staff features a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.



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

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system, ending with a final cadence in the treble staff.

Prayers of the People

Linda, Lorraine, Julaine, Ray, Wanie, Norm, Jennie, Gary, Randy
Deborah, Jerry, Miguel, Steve, Jim, Ruth Ann, Josie, Char, Mark

The Lord's Prayer from the Ecumenical Order of Charity

**Abba of us all, you dwell in all places, yet make our hearts your home.
Precious and sacred is your name. May your kinship more deeply bind us, as
we follow your ways as faithfully as those who already dwell in Light. Provide
us what we need for each day and forgive our failures as fully as we forgive
others theirs. Walk with us when we tread the paths of trial and be our
rescue from all that would lead us away from you; for you are our origin and
destiny dwelling in everlasting wonder and might. Amen.**

Announcements

Sending Song: What a Wonderful World—by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss

**I see trees of green, red roses too
I watch them bloom for me and you
And I think to myself: What a wonderful world**

**I see skies of blue and clouds of white
The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night
And I think to myself: What a wonderful world**

**The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces of people passing by
I see friends shaking hands, Saying, "How do you do?"
They're really saying, I...I love you**

**I hear babies cry and I watch them grow
They'll learn much more than we'll know
And I think to myself: What a wonderful world**

And I think to myself: What a wonderful world

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.

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.

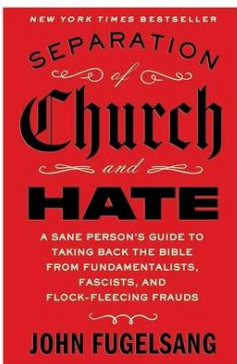
This survey will be open through July 22. Please amplify your voice through this survey. We value the opinions of our community and want to ensure that all paths moving forward are appropriately explored.

Sincerely,

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

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_Ocx6LziniSUAFVhRjI9oGAw/viewform?usp=dialog



Spiritual Journeys will start a new book Tuesday, July 21, 2026. Please join us by Zoom at 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. No need to read ahead—we read and discuss as we meet.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89838350099?pwd=O4Hu08r uXp2VHLOZLm9lsHyRKypPv9.1>



Thursday, July 16, 2026

4:30 - 5:00 p.m. Meet & Greet

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Presentation and Q&A

Jefferson High School Auditorium - Free Admission

Spanish translator available

A Conversation with Dr. Huff

As Dr. Huff begins his journey as Superintendent of Rockford Public Schools, we invite you to join us for an important conversation about the future of our district.

RPS will host four community events, one at each of our high schools. Where you can meet Dr. Huff, hear about his vision for the district, and share your thoughts, questions, and ideas. These conversations are designed to be welcoming and focused on what matters most to our students, families, staff, and community.

Listening is only the beginning. We want your voices reflected in the decisions we make and the direction we take. That means capturing what we hear, finding common themes, and communicating clearly about what comes next.

We are a community of people who cares deeply about our schools.

This is your invitation to help shape what comes next.

Women's Interfaith Potluck

All women are invited to attend the interfaith potluck on Monday, July 27th at the Muslim Association of Greater Rockford, 5921 Darlene Dr., in Rockford which starts at 6:00pm. Please bring a dish to pass.

Soul Garden Forest Preserve Walks

Come hike for an hour in Winnebago Counties Forest preserves. Text Holly if you want to join the hikes: 815-543-1191. Meet at the Forest preserve entrances unless otherwise instructed.

Thursday, July 16, 9:00am - **Kieselburg**, 5801 Swanson Road, Roscoe, IL 61073

Saturday, July 25, 9:00am - **Pecatonica River Forest Preserve**
7260 Judd Road & 14960 Brick School Road, Pecatonica, IL 61063



A@E invites you to join us for an
evening of art & inspiration
ARTS AT EMMANUEL

Echoes of a Changing Planet Art Show & Artisan Market

Special Guests: Nettle Curbside Compost,
Severson Dells & Nature at the Confluence

Opening Reception

Friday, August 7 5:00-8:00 pm

The Gallery at Emmanuel 920 Third Ave. Rockford

Enter North door off of parking lot

Artists Exhibiting

Norm Knott, Marsha Goodheart, Holly Blair-Cascio, Susan Berry,
Julie Kennelly, Maya Simmons, Caitlyn Jahn, Paula Flanagan-Marsh,
Barbara Berney, Lori Gustafson, Sadie Hoessrich, Becca Houlihan,
Jose Sente, Greg LaMont, Clara Krick, Jessie Crow-Mermel,
Wren Medina, Cassie Blair, Ventie Houi, Drew Helge,
Annette McLean and Cherie Heck

If you would like more information, please contact Susan Hurley-Whitacre
at 708-845-7207 or artsatemanuel@gmail.com