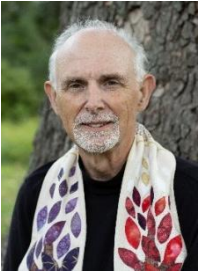


The Messenger – October 2026



Beloved of Emmanuel,

The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Jesus. Jn 3:8

There is river flowing very swiftly, know that the river has its destination, let go of the shore, keep your eyes open and head above water, see who is in there with you. From the Message of the Hopi Elders

We had the Message of the Hopi elders for a reading at the 10:30 service on August 9. We had just found out CP was not buying our building on August 6, and Rosie Santos had led us in visioning on August 8. David Stocker challenged me to make this reading my own and riff with him as he woven music into the reading. I had to trust the words stood out, the space to give between the words. The movement of Emmanuel feels like rushing river. The words of Jesus reported in the gospel of John also came to mind. Jesus uses the metaphor of wind for the mysterious and powerful experience of the Spirit-born. This images, these readings, and that experience came to my mind as I consider all that is unfolding. The call is to trust the movement of Spirit as wind and water.

We have been on quite a journey with our physical space. It feels like we are being carried along by a swiftly flowing river. As I write this it appears we will be selling the mission house, and the rest of our property including the building. During the last couple weeks, we have received offers to purchase our property. The offer for the building especially came quickly. We will be voting on these offers on Sunday October 4 at 11:45. If we accept the offers, we will be shifting in our practice of the building. It will no longer be ours to use and share as we would like. We will need to plan and negotiate with other people. It appears that the building will be shared with another congregation, a non-profit, and perhaps other organizations. We imagined our non-negotiables for physical space during our visioning event. We will use that work as we continue to

have physical space in this building. We will have a ceremony of letting go when we come to the time of handing over ownership.

We have been carried by the wind and water of Spirit through a visioning gathering and our own survey which has given us clarity about who we are and where we going. This missional focus is the energy of our future. Like those who have gone a pilgrimage or through a rite of passage we have emerged with a new name; Emmanuel: A Spiritual Community. Our identity as Emmanuel Lutheran Church has been taken up in a more inclusive expression. We will be unfolding more ways to share who we are in the wider community. There is much to embrace to be a vibrant spiritual community. The Spirit will stir within us as wind and carry us as water into our coming future. The invitation is to trust this Mystery as we doing the work we are sent here to do.

I offer you the lyrics along with links to two songs as we continue into this next chapter of the life of Emmanuel.

Let Go of the Shore

<https://open.spotify.com/track/7pV42ycrQk4XPbENLlIPIm?si=1198ff1074414e9e>

Let go of the shore Float into the mystery

Let go of the shore and let the water carry you

Let go of the shore Float into the mystery

No need to make a plan Your heart will be your compass

Lift you sails in faith and trust you will arrive.

Spirit of Gentleness verse 4

https://youtu.be/ijThMo90Lhg?is=tjrh-oHvXaSK_sEB

You call from tomorrow. You break ancient schemes

From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams.

Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.

With bold new decisions your people arise.

Church Name Change

Emmanuel: a spiritual community.

People of Emmanuel,

We continue our journey into a yet unseen future as a community. We have stepped over the threshold, and are walking into our future one step at a time. **We continue to work on selling our building so that we can embrace a sustainable future.** We will continue to share the developments as they unfold. **We are also taking steps to make Emmanuel known in the community. We are using two tools for taking next steps.** One is **the summary of the Communication Team's survey.** Another is **the results of our visioning gathering on August 8,** especially the summary of that meeting. **Our call is to take the steps needed to emerge as a vital community** that welcomes and empowers people in their spiritual journey.

Our next step is deciding on a name which expresses who we are and who we are becoming. Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts on the name in the survey. We have **chosen to go forward known as Emmanuel: a spiritual community.** Emmanuel expresses several things. It **ties us to our roots and ancestors.** It is **how we are already known in the community.** It **expresses our trust that God is with us.** We chose **"spiritual"** for several reasons. It is how **we define ourselves in our welcoming statement.** It is also **inclusive of the many paths people follow** in their relationship with God. We chose **"community"** for several reasons. **Community is about people not place.** Community could be used to translate the Greek word, *ekklesia*, which is what "church" translates. **"Community" is inviting to those who find "church" to be a stumbling block** to participating in what Emmanuel offers. **We will not be changing our legal name and we continue to be a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

Continued...

We will begin to use this name on bulletins, newsletter, social media, and eventually website and signage. This will begin to be implemented in the coming weeks.

We will be considering an icon, an image, that can be associated with Emmanuel. The survey indicated interest in three images; the tree of life, the labyrinth, and phases of the moon. Another was suggested at council, a river because of the river of life stained glass window and because a river runs through the heart of our local community.

You are invited to contact any Council member or Pastor with any thoughts or questions as we continue to walk together into our future as Emmanuel.

Blessings,
The Congregational Council

Come Worship with Us!

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, Facebook Live or 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.

FIX -IT-FAIR – Mark your calendar.



We are collaborating with Sustain Rockford
October 17th – 9:00am – 12:00pm.

Bring your damaged items to be repaired
by professionals at no cost!

Love your Mother [Earth] Repair, don't
replace.

Held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church



In Our Prayers

Lorraine, Deborah, Jerry, Vince, Miguel, Jim, Andrea, Ruth Ann,
Char, Coulter, Judy, Julaine, Jeff

Shannon, Mike, Matthew, Tom, Sophie, Todd, Peg,
Mary Jo, Dr. Abu, Emi, Isaiah, Manny, Leeza, Louis, Barbie,
Janine, Wade, Cindy, Billy, Denise, Netha, Raechel, Steve

October Birthdays

10/2 Nate Campbell

10/8 Malinda Helge

Dave Johnson

10/11 Lucio Aldana

10/14 Lauren Andree

10/19 Amanda Roberts

10/21 Lou Ann Johnson

10/24 Brody Streed

10/27 Regina Moseley

10/29 Kim Peterson

10/31 Ray Hodowanic

Women's Interfaith Potluck

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, October 26, 2026**, at Muslim Association of Greater Rockford, 5921 Darlene Dr., Rockford.

- **Monday, November 30, 2026**, location TBD.

**** NO POTLUCK IN DECEMBER 2026. *****

Happenings at Emmanuel

Cardio Drumming With Beth Campisi Mondays, 4:00 – 5:00pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Spiritual Journeys Book Study,
Tuesdays, 9:30-11 am. by Zoom. We read together and discuss, so no need to read ahead. We are reading Separation of Church and Hate, John Fugelsang.

Join Zoom Meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89838350099?pwd=O4Hu08ruXp2VHLOZLm9lsHyRKypPv9.1>

Wednesday Noon Bible Study 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 at Emmanuel.

Thursdays from 5:30 – 6:15pm – All are welcome.

Enter by parking lot entrance.

Questions or text Sara 815-742-0581.

Breathe In-Between meets on Saturday, October 10th. 5:00 to 6:00 pm. **Breathe In-Between** is a "thread" to hold us all together in the months between meditation gatherings. Led by Christyn Rittenhouse, it is an opportunity for open-hearted soul talk. While many members know each other from other sources, Christyn is creating a time for us to get to know those we are not familiar with or get to know those we do know even better. We will gather in the Benson Room! Questions? Text Catherine, [815-621-5329](tel:815-621-5329)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Pantry— Fridays 9:30-11:30 am
(closed the Fridays after Thanksgiving and Christmas)

Hello from Emmanuel's Pantry,

Believe it or not, the Holidays are almost upon us and the pantry is gearing up to give out Holiday Food to our neighbors. If you can help us out, we are asking for stuffing, turkey gravy, dry mashed potatoes, hot cocoa mix, Jello, and instant pudding. If there is anything else you want to bring, we will be grateful. There will be a cart outside of the celebration room on Sundays and through the week for you to put your offering into. We will be collecting food through October, November, and December. Also, we can use plastic bags. If you shop at Woodman's, their plastic bags are the best for carrying a paper bag full of food, but any plastic grocery bags are welcome. Thank you for supporting the Food Pantry

Soul Garden Hikes

Come hike for an hour in Winnebago Counties Forest preserves. Text Holly if you want to join the hikes: 815-543-1191. At Forest preserve entrances unless otherwise instructed. Link to Descriptions of all 44 Forest Preserves
<https://www.winnebagoforest.org/items>

Monday, October 19 10:00am

Deer Run - 5691 River Road, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Halloween Hike! Ghosts and Goblin's!

Saturday, October 31, 10:00am

Seward Bluffs - 16999 Comly Road, Seward, IL



From Sue Scott , our Faith Community Nurse

**Oct. Is National Sudden Cardiac Arrest
Awareness Month**

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

VERSUS

HEART ATTACK



ELECTRICAL



PLUMBING

THEY ARE NOT THE SAME

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Victim

Heart Attack Victim

Electrical malfunction causes the heart to suddenly and unexpectedly stop beating

Can happen at any age, including children and teens

Person is unresponsive and NOT breathing

Person may gasp or shake, as if having a seizure

Call 911

People nearby must start CPR immediately to triple chance of survival

The use of an AED, is the only way to restart a heart: AEDs can be used by anyone

Blockage in coronary arteries interrupts blood flow to the heart

Happens mostly in people over age 35

Person is responsive and breathing

Person may experience chest, neck or left arm pain, shortness of breath, sweating or nausea

Call 911

Responsive victims don't need CPR/AED

Start CPR if person becomes unresponsive and experiences sudden cardiac arrest

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a leading cause of death in the US, taking the lives of more than 356,000 people each year, including more than 23,000 under the age of 18.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest is a life-threatening emergency that occurs when the heart suddenly stops beating. It strikes people of all ages who may seem to be healthy, even children and teens. When it happens, the person suddenly collapses and doesn't respond or breathe normally. They may gasp or shake as if having a seizure.

SCA leads to death in minutes if the person doesn't get help right away. Survival depends on people nearby calling 911, starting CPR, and using an AED (if available) as soon as possible.

WELCA – Women of the ELCA

Ladies,

What a great kick-off we had on September 17th—Delicious feast, wonderful company, and important message from our Faith Community Nurse, Sue Scott. Thank you, all!

Future meetings will be from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. on the third Thursday of the month in the Celebration room. Feel free to bring a guest.

People have signed up to bring treats for some the future meetings. I'll send out a reminder before the meeting.

For the **treat sign up sheet** (just bring something to share such as coffee cake or a favorite snack or dessert, fruit, cheese—your choice. Keep it simple)

October 15—Terri Eckberg

November 19—Karen Van Howe

December 17—?

January 21—?

February 18—?

March 18—Kathy Langholf

April 15—Ann Downie

May 20—?

For the **Facilitator sign up**—Facilitators would simply be sure to read the Bible passages ahead of time about the selected women of the Bible, and at the least, read the 4 areas of questions (click on attached document) for the group to discuss. If you choose to do more research or have other resources, that is fine. If you would like to co-facilitate a session, that is find also. If you have special books or resources for any of the women, please bring them to the discussions. The only one missing a facilitator is December (Mary the Mother of Jesus). Maybe we can all share this one.

Continued...

October 15—The Bleeding Woman—Karen Van Howe
November 19— Mary Magdalene—Josie Peebles
December 17—Mary, the Mother of Jesus—all of us?
January 21—The Syrophoenecian Woman—Karen Van Howe
February 18—Ruth—Ann Downie
March 18—The Woman at the Well—Terri Eckberg
April 15—Miriam—Jan Peterson
May 20—Mary and Martha of Bethany—Kathy Langholf



**Opportunities in Midtown Lutheran Parish
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Katie's Cup is open Tuesday thru Friday 8 - 2 pm

**Serving the people who live, work, worship, and play
in the neighborhoods of Midtown**

Check out our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Midtown-Lutheran-Parish-101030175425386>

October thru December 2026 MLP Newsletter

Katie's Walking Club—Thursdays at 9:15 a.m., weather permitting

Katie's Choice Book Club—Second Thursday of the month, 10 am.—11:15 am. Check with Katie's Cup of Facebook page for book selection

Katie's Cup Conversations— noon (11:30 room open) Noon-1:15 p.m.:

***October 13, 2026—Mission to Tanzania led by Ron and Debbie Gustafson**

Continued...

***November 10, 2026—A Compassionate Look at Suicide, featuring the premiere of a video by John Murlowski and panel discussion by local therapists and counselors, ending at 2:30 p.m.**

***December 8, 2026—Orthodox Notes on the Christmas Story, presented by Father Jonathan Bannon.**

Midtown Market on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Indoors, with live music.

Holiday Market—Saturday, December 12, 2026, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there.

Cars and Coffee—9 a.m.- noon, October 3, 2026

October 9-10 Mike and Sue Blair speak on their Spiritual Journey. At Zion Lutheran Youth Center. Begins Friday, at 6 p.m. with dinner and continues Saturday with continental breakfast at 9 am.

RVC Lecture Series—Please Register early through RVC's CLR (Center for Learning in Retirement) If places available, may pay \$5 at the door.

**Call Tammy Lewis at 815-921-3933 or email
T.Lewis@rockvalleycollege.edu**

***October 15, 1:00-2:30pm – Mike Thomas on “Doctrine of Discovery & Columbus Day”**

***November 5, 10-11:30a.m – Michael Beert on The Musical History of Rock & Roll**

Acoustic Music and Open Mic—1st Thursdays, September-May from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Christopher Lewis and Bob Lindstrom

Board games on Fridays 9 a.m. -1 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

P. O. Box 4362, Rockford, IL 61110
920 Third Avenue, Rockford, IL 61108
815-963-4815 Fax: 815-963-4808

Emmanuelchurch07@gmail.com

Elcrockford.org

Pastor Frank Langholf

308-509-5241

Fslanhgolf@gmail.com