

Welcome to ReFresh at Emmanuel

(Restoring Energy, Faith, and Relevance to Every Soul's Heart)

November 22, 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=WFEwOVBXZGd3OHFzSXQ1WXlVTHppZz09

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 Goldberg
Guest Musicians: Susan and David Lippert, Jenny Olson, Linda Aldana
Accompanist: Clea Arbogast

Altar Guild: Brenden Noble
Consultant: Bill Houtkamp
Sound: Andrew Ehrhardt
Greeting Cards: Taj Guzzardo

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.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Mailing address: P. O. Box 4362, Rockford, IL 61110
Located at: 920 Third Avenue, Rockford, IL 61104 815-963-4815 Fax: 815-963-4808
emmanuelchurch07@gmail.com elcrockford.org
Pastor Frank Langholf, 309-509-5241 fslangholf@gmail.com

Date: November 22, 2026
Theme: Thanksgiving

Prelude: Clea Arbogast

Welcome: **Pastor Franck Langholf**

Meditation: "If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough."
— Meister Eckhart

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: The Great Circle of Life—by Tyler Boyle

Spirit of Love, Great Web of Life, That Which Connects Us All.
We are thankful for all that Life has provided.
We honor the great circle of Life that has brought us here and that will continue when we are gone.
We rely on the resilience of Life for strength.
We seek the beauty of Life to find hope.
We behold the legacy of Life for humility.
We respect the legacy of Life so that we may give and receive grace.
May we keep an open mind, heart, and spirit.
May it be so.

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: Come Ye Thankful People Come (ELW 693)



Reading— WORDS THAT COME BEFORE ALL ELSE

Today we have gathered and when we look upon the faces around us we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now let us bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as People.

NOW OUR MINDS ARE ONE.

We are thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us everything that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she still continues to care for us, just as she has from the beginning of time. To our Mother, we send thanksgiving, love, and respect.

NOW OUR MINDS ARE ONE.

We give thanks to all of the waters of the world for quenching our thirst, for providing strength and nurturing life for all beings. We know its power in many forms—waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans, snow and ice. We are grateful that the waters are still here and meeting their responsibility to the rest of Creation. Can we agree that water is important to our lives and bring our minds together as one to send greetings and thanks to the Water?

NOW OUR MINDS ARE ONE.

We turn our thoughts to all of the Fish life in the water. They were instructed to cleanse and purify the water. They also give themselves to us as food. We are grateful that they continue to do their duties and we send to the Fish our greetings and our thanks.

NOW OUR MINDS ARE ONE.

Now we turn toward the vast fields of Plant life. As far as the eye can see, the Plants grow, working many wonders. We honor berries, food plants, medicine herbs, and all trees. They sustain many life forms. With our minds gathered together, we give thanks and look forward to seeing Plant life for many generations to come.

NOW OUR MINDS ARE ONE.

We gather our minds together to send our greetings and thanks to all the beautiful animal life of the world, who walk about with us. They have many things to teach us as people. We are grateful that they continue to share their lives with us and hope that it will always be so. Let us put our minds together as one and send our thanks to the Animals.

NOW OUR MINDS ARE ONE.

We put our minds together as one and thank all the birds who move and fly about over our heads. The Creator gave them the gift of beautiful songs. Each morning they greet the day and with their songs remind us to enjoy and appreciate life. To all the Birds, from the smallest to the largest, we send our joyful greetings and thanks.

NOW OUR MINDS ARE ONE.

We are thankful for the powers we know as the Four Winds. We hear their voices in the morning air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. They help us to bring the change of seasons. From the four directions they come, bringing us messages and giving us strength. With one mind we send our greetings and thanks to the Four Winds.

NOW OUR MINDS ARE ONE.

We now send greetings and thanks to our eldest Brother, the Sun. Each day without fail he travels the sky from east to west bringing the light of a new day. He is the source of all the fires of life. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Brother, the Sun.

NOW OUR MINDS ARE ONE.

We put our minds together and give thanks to our oldest Grandmother, the Moon, who lights the night-time sky. She is the leader of women all over the world and she governs the movement of the ocean tides. By her changing face we measure time and it is the Moon who watches the arrival of children here on Earth. With one mind we send greetings and thanks to our Grandmother, the Moon.

NOW OUR MINDS ARE ONE.

We give thanks to the Stars who spread across the sky like jewelry. We see them at night helping the Moon to light the darkness and bringing dew to the gardens and growing things. When we travel at night they guide us home. With our minds gathered as one, we send greetings and thanks to all the Stars.

NOW OUR MINDS ARE ONE.

We gather our minds to greet and thank the enlightened Teachers who have come to help throughout the ages. When we forget how to live in harmony, they remind us of the way we were instructed to live as people. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to these caring Teachers.

NOW OUR MINDS ARE ONE.

We now turn our thoughts to the Creator, the Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greeting and thanks to the Creator.

NOW OUR MINDS ARE ONE.

We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it is not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way.

NOW OUR MINDS ARE ONE

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: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

[18]give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

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

Sermon: Pastor Franck Langholf

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

Special Music: David and Susan Lippert, Jenny Olson, Linda Aldana

Time for Gratitude

Prayer Song and Response: I Am So Blessed—by Karen Drucker

I am so blessed, I am so blessed
I am so grateful for all that I have.
I am so blessed, I am so blessed,
I am so grateful, I am so blessed.

Prayers of the People

John, Linda, Lorraine, Lenny, Caryl, Deborah, Jerry, Vince, Miguel, Steve, Jim, Wanie, Ruth Ann, Andrea, Char, Coulter, Judy, Kathy, Kristie, Julaine, Jeff, Sally

The Lord's Prayer —The Prayer of Jesus
Holy One, our only Home, Blessed be your name,
May your day dawn, your will be done, here as in heaven.
Feed us today, and forgive us as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test, but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power and the mercy are yours, forever and ever. AMEN

Announcements

Sending Song: **Let All Things Now Living (ELW 681)**



Benediction/Sharing of Peace

REMINDER

Stewardship packets are in the mail and should arrive at your home soon.

Please join us for Commitment Sunday on December 6th for worship at 8:30am or 10:30am. Remember to fill out your 2027 Stewardship Commitment Card and place it in the offering plate OR mail to Emmanuel in the enclosed envelope on or before December 2nd.



 ***LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!*** **There will be a ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION following the 10:30am service on December 6th. Hot chocolate, fun, treats and a craft for the kids. St. Nick, himself, will be watching for you. All are invited.**

INTERFAITH POTLUCKS

All women are invited to attend the interfaith potluck listed below, which starts at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass. Plates, silverware, and beverages will be provided.

- **Monday, November 30, 2026**, at Inscape Collective, 201 - 7th St., Rockford.

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.

Saturday, December 5, 10:00am
Rockford Rotary Forest Preserve
5390 Rotary Road, Cherry Valley, IL 61063

Saturday, December 19, 10:00am
Kishwaukee River Forest Preserve
6303 Mulford Road & 5757 Blackhawk Road, Cherry Valley, IL



The Rockford Choral Union will present its 80th annual performances of George Frideric Handel's "Messiah" 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28 & 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church 920 Third Ave, Rockford.

Since 1945, with the exception of the year the coronavirus pandemic took hold, the Rockford Choral Union has presented Handel's "Messiah" to the Rockford area community. The tradition was started by a group of singers from various Lutheran churches to provide a warm Christmas welcome to those returning from World War II.

This year's "Messiah" features four professional soloists including Jordan Knapick, a former northern Illinois resident and operatic soprano. Also in soloist roles will be tenor Michael Day-Toles, formerly of Rockford, bass Nicolai Janitzky of Belvidere, and mezzo Claudia Holen, formerly of Rockford. There will be an organ, harpsichord and trumpet with a 75-voice volunteer choir representing churches throughout the Rockford area. "Messiah," first presented in Dublin, Ireland in 1742, remains one of the most performed works in the classical genre.

There is no admission charge and there are no tickets required.
A voluntary offering will be taken during intermission.
Handicap parking and ramp access is available in the North parking lot.
For any other questions please refer to rockfordchoralunion.com



2026 Poinsettia Garden



If you would like a poinsettia in the Poinsettia Garden remembering or honoring your loved one, please complete this form and mail it to
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, P. O. Box 4362, Rockford, IL 61110
or bring it to the church office, or place in the offering plate.
Plants are $13.00.

All poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve. or December 27th Service. No names will be listed on the plants. If you would like to give a poinsettia to a shut-in, please plan arrangements for delivery.

If you choose, you may make a memorial donation in lieu of a plant.
All donations will be given to Emmanuel's general fund in memory or in honor of Loved Ones. Please make checks payable to Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

DEADLINE FOR POINSETTIA ORDERS IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

I wish to order ____ Poinsettias. My check/cash for $_____ is enclosed.

Please list as follows: (Print)

In memory of:_____

*By:*_____

In honor of:_____

*By:*_____

*I am making a donation to Emmanuel in the amount of $*_____

*In memory of:*_____

*In honor of:*_____

*By*_____