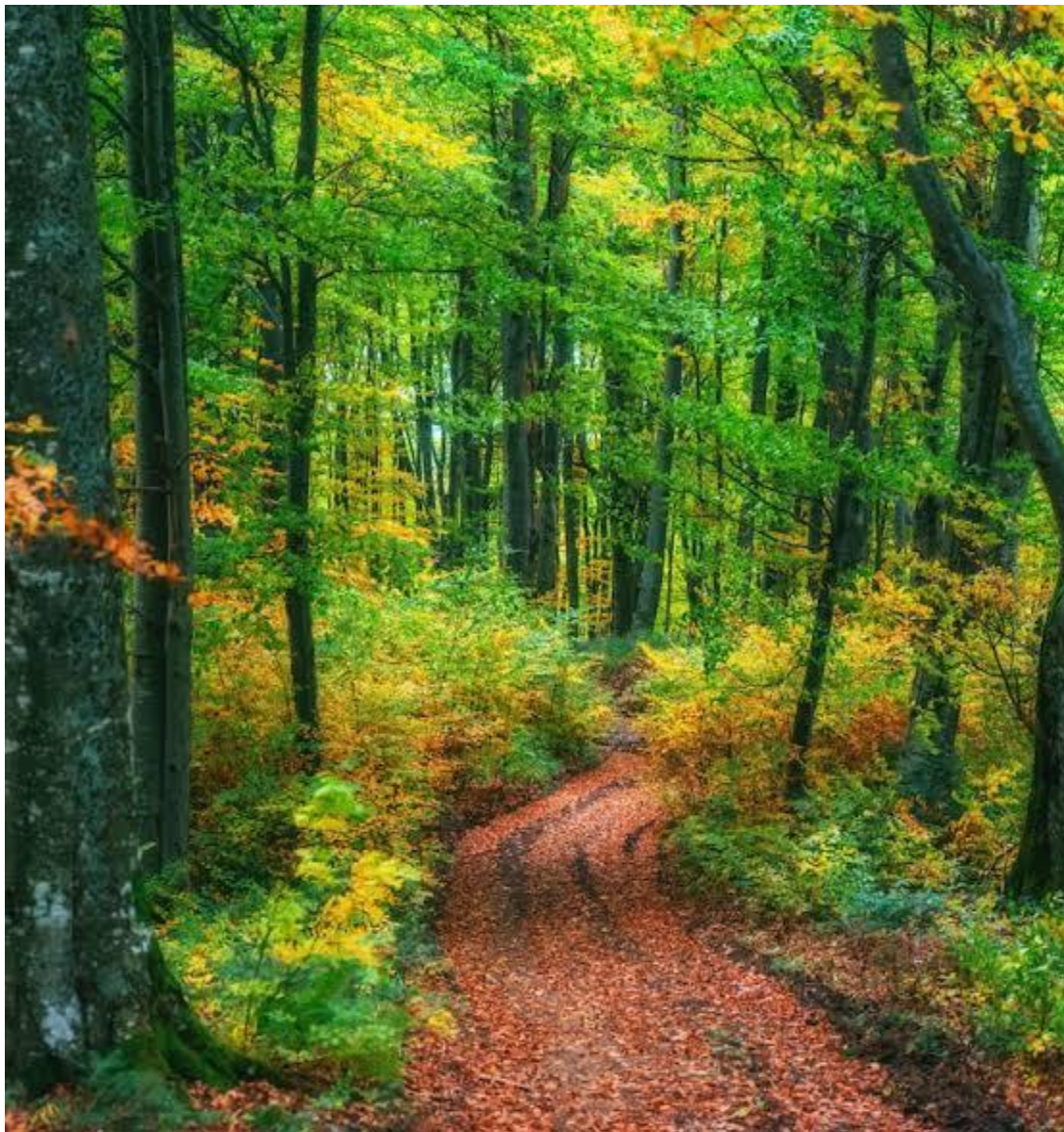




**Welcome to ReFresh at Emmanuel  
(Restoring Energy, Faith, and Relevance to Every Soul's Heart)**

**September 13, 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: Bob Matheson

Accompanist: Clea Arbogast

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

Altar Guild: Taj Guzzardo, Marcia Terrill

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.

**Date: September 13, 2026 in Labyrinth, weather permitting**

**Theme: Forest**

**Prelude: Be Glorified by Billy Funk**

**Chorus:**

**Be Glorified in the heavens**

**Be Glorified in the earth**

**Be Glorified in this temple**

**Jesus, Jesus, be thou glorified**

**Jesus, Jesus, be thou glorified**

**Welcome                      Pastor Frank Langholf**

**Meditation:** The forest is a peculiar organism of unlimited kindness and  
benevolence.—the Buddha

**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.**

## Welcoming new member Karen Radtke

### *Presentation:*

We gather to welcome **Karen Radtke** into this spiritual community.

### *Spiritual Affirmations:*

One: Do you seek to put your trust in God, the all-encompassing spirit in whom we live and move and have our being?

**All: I do.**

One: Do you desire to be centered in Christ's love?

**All: I do.**

One: Do you seek to live with an open heart, open to the spirit of life that is within you, among us and between us; open to the wounds and joys of creation and to the needs of the world?

**All: I do.**

One: Do you seek to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others and to seek justice and resist the distortions of goodness?

**All: I do.**

One: Will you join in the life and work of this spiritual community, sharing our path and passions?

**All: I will.**

One: May we all have the courage and conviction to live the promises of Divine Love

### **Congregational Commitment:**

One: People of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, do you commit yourselves to walk with **Karen Radtke** who joins us now, supporting her with your companioning presence?

**All: We will**

### **Welcome:**

One: Let us extend our hearts and hands to Karen who joins our journey.

**All: May the power of love guide you, inspire you, and work within you all the days of your life.**

One: May you be blessed as you walk the path of faith with us.

**All: May our faith grow and deepen as we share this path together. Amen**

## **Opening of the Heart —from Black Elk**

Hey! Learn to hear my feeble voice.  
At the center of the sacred hoop  
You have said that I should make the tree to bloom.

**With tears running, O Great Spirit, my Grandfather,  
With running eyes I must say  
The tree has never bloomed.**

Here I stand, and the tree is withered.  
Again, I recall the great vision you gave me.

**It may be that some little root of the sacred tree still lives.  
Nourish it then  
That it may leaf  
And bloom  
And fill with singing birds!**

Hear me, that the people may once again  
Find the good road  
And the shielding tree.

### **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: Here I am Lord (ELW 574)



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

### *Refrain*



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

## **First Reading Can You Imagine?—by Mary Oliver**

For example, what the trees do  
not only in lightning storms  
or the watery dark of a summer's night  
or under the white nets of winter  
but now, and now, and now - whenever  
we're not looking. Surely you can't imagine  
they don't dance, from the root up, wishing  
to travel a little, not cramped so much as wanting  
a better view, or more sun, or just as avidly  
more shade - surely you can't imagine they just  
stand there loving every  
minute of it, the birds or the emptiness, the dark rings  
of the years slowly and without a sound  
thickening, and nothing different unless the wind,  
and then only in its own mood, comes  
to visit, surely you can't imagine  
patience, and happiness, like that.

## **Second Reading—from Haida Gwaii Circle of Elders**

The trees are the Elders of the Earth.  
Go to the forest or to the mountains and find a young tree.  
Then find an old tree. Spend time with each.  
Sit by the young tree and listen to your thoughts.  
Then move to an old tree and listen to your thoughts again.  
Just being in the presence of an old tree, you will feel more calm.  
Your thoughts will contain wisdom and your answers will be deeper.  
Why is this so? These old trees know more, have heard more, and are  
the Elders of the Earth.  
We must ensure these trees live so we can learn from them.  
My. Creator, help me to protect the trees and listen to them.

**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: Isaiah 55: 12-13**

For you shall go out in joy  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,  
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

**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: Here by the Water** by Steve Bell

**Chorus:**

**And here by the water  
I'll build an altar to praise Him  
Out of the stones that I've found here  
I'll set them down here  
Rough as they are  
Knowing You can make them holy**

## **Time for Gratitude**

**Prayer Song and Response:            Bless the Lord, My Soul**

**Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.**

**Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.**

## **Prayers of the People**

Linda, Lorraine, Deborah, Jerry, Vince, Miguel, Steve, Jim, Ruth Ann,  
Andrea, Char, Coulter, Judy, Kathy, Kristie, Julaine

## **The Lord's Prayer      Lakota prayer**

**Oh, Great Spirit,  
whose voice I hear in the winds  
and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me.  
I am small and weak.  
I need your strength and wisdom.**

**Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes  
ever behold the red and purple sunset.  
Make my hands respect the things you have made  
and my ears sharp to hear your voice.  
Make me wise so that I may understand  
the things you have taught my people.  
Let me learn the lessons you have hidden  
in every leaf and rock.**

**I seek strength, not to be superior to my brother,  
but to fight my greatest enemy - myself.  
Make me always ready to come to you  
with clean hands and straight eyes,  
so when life fades, as the fading sunset,  
my spirit will come to you  
without shame.**

## **Announcements**

**Sending Song:**       **Get Together** by Chet Powers

**Chorus:**

**Come on people now, smile on your brother**

**Everybody get together,**

**And try to love one another right now**

## **Benediction/Sharing of Peace**

**Spiritual Journeys:** Please join us by Zoom at 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Spiritual Journeys is reading the book entitled, "Church & Hate," by John Fugelsang. No need to read in advance. We take turns reading in our group and pause for discussion. You can join us anytime, we read and discuss the book together.

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

## **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, September 19, 10:00am**

**Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve**

5360 Mulford Road & 5801 Perryville Rd, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Meet at Mulford Road entrance parking lot.

### **WELCA Salad & Dessert Potluck**

We are going to start our WELCA year with a salad/dessert potluck since bad weather caused us to miss it as our finale in June. **Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.** we will meet in the Celebration Room. Sue Scott will be giving a presentation. Please bring a salad or dessert and a friend! We'll also be looking at several possible themes/books/discussion topics to choose from for the year. Hope to see you all there with a friend. Karen

### **2026 Flu & Covid Vaccine Clinics**

Walgreens Pharmacy has graciously agreed to offer various adult vaccine clinics in the community this fall. Would you consider adding these dates in your calendar & taking advantage of this health promotion activity?

#### **Influenza & Covid Vaccines for adults:**

**Fri. 9/18/26 9:00 am-12:00 pm Emmanuel Lutheran Church (920 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Rkfd)**

**Sat. 9/19/26 9:00 am-2:00 pm Lifescape Senior Expo at Rock Valley College,  
(3301 N Mulford Rd, Rkfd)**

**Sat. 9/19/26 12:00-6:00 pm Macedonia Baptist Church (1720 Morgan St., Rkfd)**

NOTE: Bring your insurance card (Medicare B, Medicaid, or private insurance), cash or check. If your Medicaid insurance is not an approved payment source, ask re: available scholarships. No appointment necessary. Just come! Invite your friends and family! Spread the word.

Questions? Contact Sue Scott, Faith Community Nurse

Now Showing until November 15th



Artist: Norm Knott

**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

### Artists Exhibiting

Norm Knott, Marsha Goodheart, Holly Blair-Cascio, Susan Berry,  
Julie Kennelly, Maya Simmons, Caitlyn Jahn, Paula Flanagan-Marsh,  
Barbara Berncy, 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 [artsatcmmanuel@gmail.com](mailto:artsatcmmanuel@gmail.com)



## **Clothing Swap & Rummage Sale**

Saturday, 9/19 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm and  
Sunday, 9/20 from 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran is looking to rehome a variety of furniture and decor, including some antique pieces from the 1920s! Items include solid wood buffets, tables, and chairs; mid-century modern pieces; French-provincial and Jacobean pieces; instruments; centerpieces; and more!

The clothing swap will take place from 11:00 am-1:00 pm on Saturday and 1:00-3:00 pm on Sunday with a suggested donation of \$5 to participate. We will have a variety of items available, including masculine and feminine options, and encourage you to bring your own items to swap!

Please come by to see what we have to offer, and follow this event for updates on what will be available. Check out our beautiful prairie and labyrinth garden while you are here!

### **Special Notice to all Emmanuel Members and Friends:**

Emmanuel will be open on Friday, September 18th from 10:00 – 2:00pm for you to come and check out what we will be selling at the rummage.

### **Volunteer Sign Up Form:**

**We ask that the Emmanuel Community considers signing up for a shift to assist with the Rummage Sale. More information is on the form!**

Email [awallacenoble@gmail.com](mailto:awallacenoble@gmail.com) with questions.

<https://forms.gle/iUDx13GHUQ1RLVch6>

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emmanuelchurch07@ gmail.com elcrockford.org  
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