



Welcome to ReFresh at Emmanuel
(Restoring Energy, Faith, and Relevance to Every Soul's Heart)
September 14, 2025

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 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 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: Kathryn Wright

Guest Musician: Tim & Emily Austin

Tom and Fran Wilson

Accompanist: Clea Arbogast

Altar Guild: Susan Hurley-Whitacre

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, 4:00 – 5:00pm

Spiritual Journeys 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

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

Date: September 14, 2025—Outside in labyrinth, weather permitting
Theme: Attending to the Overlooked

Prelude: **Come to Me**—by Bev Richmond and friends

Welcome: **Pastor Frank Langholf**

Meditation: Attention is the beginning of devotion.—Mary Oliver

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 —by Rev. Kevin Bradley

Leader: The presence of God is surely in this place.

People: The presence of God is everywhere.

Leader: We open our hearts to receive the presence of God in this place, at this time.

People: We seek ways to express the presence of God in all places, at all times.

Leader: We gather here to remind ourselves and each other that God is everywhere at all times.

People: God is in all people, in all things, in all places, and in all circumstances.

All: To see God where we expect to find God, we open our eyes. To see God everywhere, we must open our hearts.

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: Will You Come and Follow Me—(ELW 798)



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for the cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners in -
 your name? Will you quell the fear fol - low
 my name. Let me turn and



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

First Reading: A Call to Find Your Voice—by Dan Senter

Together we hold a place where each can find voice as they long to reflect the Christ for our time.

We hold a place where the path and teachings of Jesus leads us into an experience of the sacred even as we draw from diverse sources of wisdom along way.

We hold a place inclusive of all people as we explore the fullest expression of what we believe

We hold a place that expresses itself through the way we behave toward each human life and all of creation.

We hold a place where we find grace within the very search for understanding.

We hold a place where all can strive for justice and work to restore the integrity of the earth.

We hold a place committed to life—long learning, expanded compassion, and selfless love.

Together we each find our voice as we live into the reflection of Christ for our time.

Unison reading: Come, Come, Whoever You Are—Rumi

Come, come whoever you are
Wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving
Come, come whoever you are
This isn't a caravan of despair

It doesn't matter if you've broken your vows
A thousand times before
And yet again,
Come again come, yet again come

Come again come...

Second Reading—The Guesthouse by Rumi—Translated by Coleman Barks

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

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: Luke 15: 1-10

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Presider: This is the witness of an early Christian 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: Instruments of Peace—by Kirk and Deby Dearman

Chorus:

Lord, make us instruments of Your peace.

Where there is hatred let Your love increase.

Lord, make us instruments of Your peace.

Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease, when we are Your instruments of peace.

Time for Gratitude

Prayer Song: As The Deer Pants For The Water



As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my soul longs af - ter you;



you a - lone are my heart's de - sire and I long to wor - ship you.

Refrain



You a-lone are my strength and shield; to you a-lone may my spir-it yield.



You a - lone are my heart's de - sire and I long to wor - ship you.

Prayers of the People

Allison, Tim, Jonathan, Julaine, Kathy, Ray, Donna, Jim, Ellie

Jennie, Char, Judy, Shannon, Ian, Miguel, Mike, Matthew, Tom, Sophie, Vince,
Todd, Bina, Deborah, Jeff, Peg, Karen & Jerry, Nathaniel & Hannah, Tim Geoppo,
Mary Jo, Dr. Abu, Emi, Isaiah, Manny, Leeza, Louis

The Lord's Prayer

**O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos,
you create all that moves
in light.**

**O Thou! The Breathing Life of all,
Creator of the Shimmering Sound that
touches us.**

**Respiration of all worlds,
we hear you breathing--in and out--
in silence.**

**Source of Sound: in the roar and the whisper,
in the breeze and the whirlwind, we
hear your Name.**

**Radiant One: You shine within us,
outside us--even darkness shines--when
we remember.**

**Name of names, our small identity
unravels in you, you give it back
as a lesson.**

**Wordless Action, Silent Potency--
where ears and eyes awaken, there
heaven comes.**

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos!

Announcements

Sending Song: **"Lean on Me"** by Bill Withers & **"We Will Stand"** by Russ Taff

Lean on me

When you're not strong

And I'll be your friend

I'll help you carry on...

For it won't be long

Till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

You just call on me brother when you need a hand

We all need somebody to lean on

I just might have a problem that you'll understand

We all need somebody to lean on

You're my brother, you're my sister

So take me by the hand

Together we will work until

He comes There's no foe that can defeat us

When we're walking side by side

As long as there is love

We will stand

Repeat "Lean on Me"

Benediction/Sharing of Peace

WELCA starts up again at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 18. Emmanuel is entering a period of reflection and envisioning which also affects Calvary.

Throughout the month of September, we will be holding small group meetings in people's homes to further focus our envisioning of how we can continue and grow as a spiritual community. We will be using our WELCA time as a small group meeting. Pastor Frank will be able to join us and we could use the time to reflect and inspire each other. Others for whom this would be important but who don't usually come to WELCA (women or men), would be welcome.



**What a wonderful potluck and envisioning meeting!
We've celebrated who we are.
Now we begin to envision our future.
If you haven't already done so, please check your
calendars and sign up to attend a small group meeting
where we will explore next steps.**

**Listed below are the dates and times still available, with contact person. Please
contact the host ASAP so they will know how many to expect.**

**If none of these are convenient, please call the church office (815-963-4815),
and put your name on a list for a later date.**

**Sunday, Sept 14 at 3:00 p.m. 4224 Westfield Dr. (6 spots left)
Karen Van Howe. 815-519-9937**

**Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 7:00 p.m. 1615 Harlem Blvd. (3 spots left)
Catherine Rennert & Jack Ream. 815-621-5329**

**Thursday, Sept. 18 at 9:30 a.m. Emmanuel Lutheran Church.
(Unlimited spots available) Karen Van Howe. 815-519-9937**

**Thursday, Sept. 18 at 7:00p.m. 4017 Guilford Rd. (4 spots left)
Tim Fenelon & Erick Knaus. 815-668-1313 or 779-348-1947**

**Monday, Sept. 22 at 7:00 p.m. 1616 26th Street. (3 spots left)
Josh & Kelli Luebke. 815-980-1812 or 815-543-7012**

**Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 6:30 p.m. 2303 Willow Lane. (5 spots left)
Marcia & Steve Terrill 815-742-7511**

Continued....

Thursday, Sept. 25 at 7:00 p.m. ZOOM with Pastor Frank. (Unlimited spots available)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82726742888?pwd=WFewOVbXZGd3OHFzSXQ1WlVTHppZz09>

If you join by a landline or cell phone you can use one of these numbers and then enter the meeting ID and passcode. 1 309 205 3325 US or +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 827 2674 2888

Passcode: 830753

815-963-4815 or 309-509-5241

Flu (Influenza) & Covid Vaccine Clinic

9:00 am-Noon Friday, Sept. 26, 2025

Held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 920 Third Ave.

Enter by North Parking lot entrance.

Vaccines provided by Walgreens.

Medicare, some Medicaid insurers, private insurances, cash or check accepted. Insurance card must be presented. Limited scholarships available, inquire upon arrival.

Lifescape's Senior Expo

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025 9:00 am-2:00 pm FREE admission

Rock Valley College PE Center

3301 N Mulford Road, Rockford

70 vendor booths, flu vaccines & SO much health information.

www.lifescapeservices.org or call 815-963-1609 for more info.

All are invited to come and view the artwork of Deborah Ann Lucas in the gallery at Emmanuel on T/W/Th, 8:00 – 1:00pm or on Sunday after church. Deborah is an artist and author of “Dance While the Fire Burns” a memoir.