



Welcome to ReFresh at Emmanuel
(Restoring Energy, Faith, and Relevance to Every Soul's Heart)
November 30, 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.

Bible Study on Wednesdays at Noon on zoom.

By phone, Dial 312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 893 5688 8344

Wednesday Bible Study

People have asked if someone can join the Wednesday Bible Study (12 noon) on a phone instead of by computer. A person can join the Bible Study with a cell phone or land line. To join by a land line or cell phone, dial the number below and then enter the meeting id and passcode when prompted. +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 893 5688 8344 Passcode: 11999

Assisting in Worship Today

Presider: Pastor Frank Langholf

Lectors: Susan & Dan Goldberg

Candle Lighters: Susan & Dan Goldberg

Accompanist: Clea Arbogast

Altar Guild: Kristi Heath-White & Bob

Consultant: Bill Houtkamp

Sound: Andrew Ehrhardt

Greeting Cards: Taj Guzzardo

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: November 30, 2025—In the Chapel
Theme: First Sunday in Advent: Christ Comes in Creation

Prelude: Selection by Clea Arbogast

Welcome: Pastor Frank Langholf

Meditation:

“Inescapably, we are challenged to encounter and befriend the Holy One, not in a heaven hereafter, but in the evolutionary revelatory power of the sacredness in which we are immersed each day.”

— Diarmuid O'Murchu,

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.**

Advent Song: Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (ELW 240), verse 1



- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Light one can-dle to | watch for Mes-si - ah: | let the light ban-ish | dark - ness. |
| 2 | Light two can-dles to | watch for Mes-si - ah: | let the light ban-ish | dark - ness. |
| 3 | Light three can-dles to | watch for Mes-si - ah: | let the light ban-ish | dark - ness. |
| 4 | Light four can-dles to | watch for Mes-si - ah: | let the light ban-ish | dark - ness. |



He	shall bring	sal - va - tion	to Is - ra - el,	God	ful - fills	the	prom - ise.
He	shall feed	the flock	like a shep - herd,	gent - ly	lead	them	home - ward.
Lift	your heads	and lift	high the gate - way	for the	King	of	glo - ry.
He	is com - ing,	tell the	glad tid - ings.	Let	your	lights	be shin - ing!

First Advent Candle reading and lighting

Blessed creator, who moves in the dark, teach us to hope.

Help us to be ready, to appreciate the spark of light
that comes to illumine our hearts,
and show the way toward love and peace.

Help us to find breath to call out injustice,
to speak words of love to those in need,
to whisper in the wind that there is good in this world and enough to share.

In the true belief that someday this world can become a Beloved
Community that holds us all in care, we light this candle of Hope.

Amen.

(Light one purple candle.)

Gathering Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (ELW 257) verse 1

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

First Reading -Richard Rohr

. . . Incarnation (the belief that God is with us here on this earth) [goes] beyond Jesus of Nazareth to include all matter. God is incarnated in the world. . . . [This] suggests that God is closer to us than we are to ourselves, for God is the breath or spirit that gives life to the billions of different bodies that make up God's body. But God is also the source, power, and goal of everything that is, for the creation depends utterly upon God.

Second Reading—Mechtild of Magdeburg (c. 1212—c. 1282)

The day of my spiritual awakening
was the day I saw and knew I saw
all things in God and God in all things.

Scripture/Meditation Song: Come Now, O Prince of Peace (ELW 247) verse 1



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm

1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.

Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.



Scripture: Colossians 1: 15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in[a] him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in[b] him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God[c] was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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: Selection by Clea Arbogast

Time for Gratitude

Prayer Song: Unexpected and Mysterious (ELW 258) verse 1



1 Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle
2 In a mo - men - tar - y meet - ing of e - ter - ni -
3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the



word of grace. Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain -
ty and time, Mar - y learned that she would car -
com - ing Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas -



ing is the peace of God's em-brace. If we fal-ter
ry both the mor-tal and di-vine. Then she learned of
sion for each frag-ile hu-man life. God is with us



in our cour - age and we doubt what we have known, God is
God's com-pas - sion, of E - liz - a-beth's great joy, and she
in our long - ing to bring heal-ing to the earth, while we



faith - ful to con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own.
ran to greet the wom - an who would rec - og - nize her boy.
watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

Prayers of the People

Allison, Jonathan, Julaine, Ray, Donna, Jim, Ellie, Susan, Caryl,
Wanie, Anita, Susan

Jennie, 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, Barbie, Janine, Mike

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: People Look East (ELW 248)

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course and the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and the moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Benediction/Sharing of Peace

Winnebago County Forest Preserves Interest Hikes

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. Link to Descriptions of all 44 Forest Preserves <https://www.winnebagoforest.org/items> All hikes begin at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 6, 10:00 a.m.

Kishwaukee River Forest Preserve
6303 Mulford Rd & 5757 Blackhawk Rd
Cherry Valley, IL

Wednesday, December 17, 10:00am

J. Norman Jensen Forest Preserve
14400 S. Bluff, Rockton, IL 61072

Rockford Choral Union presents George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*
3:00pm today at Emmanuel. No tickets or charge for admission.
Free-will offering will be received.

Happening at Emmanuel

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

Belly Dancing Session December 3, 10, 17 at Emmanuel

No previous dance experience required and great for all fitness levels.

Register with Emily Rice 773-456-1245 - Cost: \$10/class

Silent meditation practice in the Benson Room at Emmanuel.

Thursdays from 5:30 – 6:00pm – All are welcome.

Enter by parking lot entrance. Questions or text Sara 815-742-0581.

Bible Study on Wednesdays at Noon on zoom.

By phone, Dial 312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 893 5688 8344



Join Us for Our St. Nicholas Feast! ✨👤

When: Sunday, December 7th — following the 10:30am Worship

It's that special time of year again — the St. Nicholas Feast!

This year, we're keeping things simple and sweet with finger foods, cookies, and festive treats (no potluck this time).



Want to share a favorite treat?

You're welcome to sign up outside the celebration room or call the church to bring a dessert or finger food if you'd like!



What to Bring:

- Your holiday spirit and appetite for fun! There will be a holiday craft!
- Donations for our Food Pantry Winter Drive — gently used or new gloves, scarves, coats, and hats are all welcome for children and adults.



Families, please sign up!

Let us know if you're coming, and include how many children you're bringing (and their ages) so St. Nick knows how many little guests to expect.

Let's celebrate the spirit of giving, warmth, and community together!

2025 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 28th 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 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

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

Please list as follows: (Print)

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

By: _____

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

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

By _____