



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

September 6, 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: Karen Van Howe

Accompanist: Clea Arbogast

Guest Musician: Josh Luebke

Communion Assistant: Marcia Terrill

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 6, 2026 Theme: God's Work, Our Hands

Prelude: Clea Arbogast

Welcome: Pastor Frank Langholf

Meditation: What if it truly doesn't matter what you do but how you do whatever you do? Oriah Mountain Dreamer

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 Rebecca Sutton

Pray for those who are hungry.

Pray harder for those who will not feed them.

Pray for those who struggle each week to pay their bills.

Pray harder for the wealthy who do not care.

Pray for those who are homeless.

Pray harder for those who deny them shelter.

Pray for the sick and lonely.

Pray harder for those who will not give them comfort.

Pray for those who cry out for dignity.

Pray harder for those who will not listen.

Pray for those oppressed by unjust wages.

Pray harder for those who exploit them.

Pray for those who bear the yoke of prejudice.

Pray harder for those who discriminate against them.

Continued...

Pray for those whose basic needs are denied.

***Pray harder for public officials who cater to the greedy
and ignore those bound unjustly. Amen.***

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.

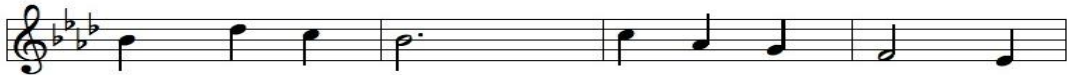
Gathering Song: God's Work, Our Hands (ACS 1000)



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

First Reading: My Work is Loving the World —by Mary Oliver

My work is loving the world.
Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird—
equal seekers of sweetness.
Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.
Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.

Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?
Am I no longer young, and still half-perfect? Let me
keep my mind on what matters,
which is my work,

which is mostly standing still and learning to be
astonished.

The phoebe, the delphinium.
The sheep in the pasture, and the pasture.
Which is mostly rejoicing, since all the ingredients are here,

which is gratitude, to be given a mind and a heart
and these body-clothes,
a mouth with which to give shouts of joy
to the moth and the wren, to the sleepy dug-up clam,
telling them all, over and over, how it is
that we live forever.

Second Reading: Selections by Kahlil Gibran

And what is it to work with love?

It is to weave the cloth with threads drawn from your heart, even as if your beloved were to wear that cloth.

It is to build a house with affection, even as if your beloved were to dwell in that house.

It is to sow seeds with tenderness and reap the harvest with joy, even as if your beloved were to eat the fruit.

It is to charge all things you fashion with a breath of your own spirit,
And to know that all the blessed dead are standing about you and watching....

Work is love made visible.

And if you cannot work with love but only with distaste, it is better that you should leave your work and sit at the gate of the temple and take alms of those who work with joy.

For if you bake bread with indifference, you bake a bitter bread that feeds but half man's hunger.

And if you grudge the crushing of the grapes, your grudge distills a poison in the wine.

And if you sing though as angels, and love not the singing, you muffle man's ears to the voices of the day and the voices of the night.

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: Matthew 9: 35-38 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

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

All: May we find wisdom for our living.

Sermon—Pastor Frank Langholf

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

Special Music. Selection by Josh Luebke

Time of Gratitude—We Are an Offering (ELW 692)

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord's Prayer—From the Aramaic

O Divine Beloved, Your Radiant Presence shines in all the universe.

I will hold your Radiant Presence in my heart.

Create Your Reign of Shalom NOW...(Use these willing hands and this passionate heart.)

May Your Heart's desire become mine. May they be joined as ONE.

Grant what we need each day in Bread and Wisdom.

Release us from the burden of our failures as we release those who have failed us.

Break the hold of our distractions and free us from the fears that hold us back...and the evil so close.

For yours is the Reign of Shalom, the Power, and the Song, from age to age.

AMEN. It is sealed in trust.

Communion Music—Selection by Clea Arbogast

Prayer Song and Response: Lord, Listen to your Children Praying (ELW 752)

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano and Alto, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps: F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and the second line of music corresponds to the second line of lyrics. The score ends with a double bar line.

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Prayers of the People

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

Announcements

Sending Song: May My Hands Do the Work—J. Roberts

**May my hands do the work I was sent here to do,
May my ears know the truth from the lies.
May my mouth speak for justice,
May I walk unafraid,
May I see with compassionate eyes.**

Benediction/Sharing of the 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.

Wednesday, September 9, 10:00am

Cedar Cliff -7901 Kishwaukee Road, Stillman Valley, IL 61084

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.



BREATHE is returning after the Summer break,
September 12th at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary
At the Breathe Meditation Service we gather for one hour to enter a sacred time – the “thin place” between the worlds -- and Breathe. We listen to sacred scriptures and poetry from many traditions, we chant, and we sit in silence as we open ourselves to the Great Mystery.

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 3rd 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



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 Berney, 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 artsatcmanuel@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 with questions.

<https://forms.gle/iUDx13GHUQ1RLVch6>

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Pastor Frank Langholf, phone 309-509-5241, email: fslangholf@gmail.com