



**Welcome to ReFresh at Emmanuel
(Restoring Energy, Faith, and Relevance to Every Soul's Heart)
June 7, 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 ReRefresh 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: Andrea Wallace Noble

Preacher: LGBTQIA+ Voices

Lector: Susan Hurley Whitacre

Guest Musicians: Kelli & Josh Luebke

Communion Assistant: Holly Hansen

Sacristans: Fran Hamm, Taj Guzzardo

Altar Guild: Dave & Susan Whitacre

Consultant: Bill Houtkamp

Sound: Andrew Ehrhardt

Greeting Cards: Taj Guzzardo

Yoga With Claudette Pirrello, Mondays at 5:00 pm

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: June 7, 2026

Theme: PRIDE

Prelude: Clea Arbogast

Welcome: Andrea Wallace Noble

Meditation: "Be certain that in the religion of Love there are no believers and unbelievers. LOVE embraces all."—Rumi

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:

God of the Divine Feminine,
help us strip away all that the world requires of us. The smallness, the daintiness, the gentle and submissive tendencies, the beauty standards, the trendiness, the fashion conscientiousness, the norms of cooking and cleaning and care taking. The expectations of lady-like demeanor.

(A time of silence to name the ways we have harmed those who identify as female.)

Instead, equip us with all we see in you.

Remind us of the ways in which we embody intuitiveness, compassion, wisdom, acceptance, forgiveness, collaboration and reflectiveness.

God of the Divine Masculine,

help us strip away all that the world requires of us. The greatness, the supremacy, the righteous anger, the norms of being the sole protector and key provider. The expectations of becoming the one and only.

(A time of silence to name the ways we have harmed those who identify as male.)

Instead, equip us with all we see in you.

Remind us of the ways in which we embody logic, assertiveness, discipline, boundaries, confidence and objectivity.

God of the Divine Non-binary,

help us string away the notion of the either/or. The archetypes and the paradigms that divide. The expectations that I must fit into a single category.

(A time of silence to name the ways we have harmed those who identify as non-binary or trans.)

Instead, equip us with all we see in you.

Remind us of the ways in which we embody expansiveness, liminal space, and inclusiveness. Help us to trust these qualities, to know them as holy, sacred and worthy, to live boldly knowing that your asymmetrical love is always and everywhere unconditional.

Hear this, God's beloved children! God knows and loves all of us, and catches us when we stumble and fail to walk the good road with Jesus. We are a loved and forgiven people! May we continue to walk in joy as we love and forgive each other!

And all God's beloveds say . . .

Amen.

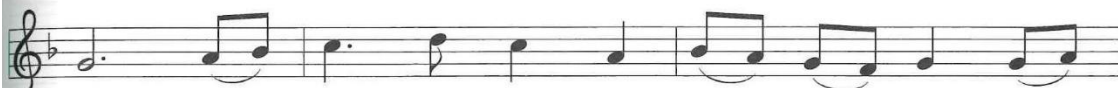
Proclamation of Grace:

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.

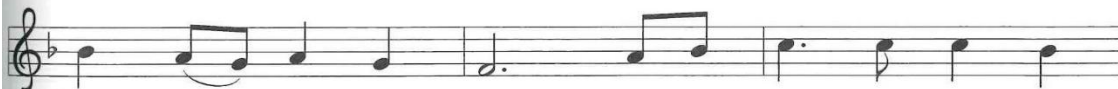
Gathering Song: All Are Welcome (ELW 641)



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Reading: Beautiful Diversity, responsive reading — Ben Saunders

Humans of God's creation, we are diverse.

We are beautiful. We are unique.

We judge each other's differences, yet our diversity is an illustration of the infinite mystery of God.

The God in me sees the God in you.

Humans of God's creation, we are political.

We hold onto traditions. We explore new ideas and practices.

We are passionate about our views, yet we are complacent in systems of injustice.

The God in me hears the God in you.

Humans of God's creation, we have bodies.

We are non-binary. We are gay. We are straight. We are transgender.

We are all made in the image of God.

The God in me loves the God in you.

Humans of God's creation, we are theological.

We are human. We are divine.

We sometimes feel alone, yet we are bound by the energy of God.

The God in me is the God in you.

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.

Refrain: Praise the Lord for he has loved us, alleluia

And his love is come to free us. Alleluia!

Scripture: Matthew 12: 1-14

At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? How he entered the house of God, and they ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath." He left that place and entered their synagogue; a man was there with a withered hand, and they asked him, "Is it lawful to cure on the Sabbath?" so that they might accuse him. He said to them, "Suppose one of you has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath; will you not lay hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and it was restored, as sound as the other.

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

All: May we find wisdom for our living.

Sermon—LGBTQIA+ Voices

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

Special Music. Selection by Josh and Kelli Luebke

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

The musical score is written on six staves in treble clef with a 7/8 time signature. It features a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) on the first, third, and sixth staves. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words underlined to match the musical phrasing.

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, 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 voic-es, 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—

**Our mother and Father,
in whom we move and breathe and have our being,
The hallowing of your name shines forth in the diversity of your children.
May your peace and love, justice and equality,
inclusion and belonging reign here on earth as in heaven.
Grant that we might all have our daily needs met—and that we all find a loving
community to belong to and call our own.
Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short and failed your children.
Forgive us for the times we turned away, or did not care; for the times we
laughed or judged unique expressions of your image; for the times we have
misspoken, asked too much, or failed to hear,
As we forgive those who might have failed us.
Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent in the face of injustice. But
instead give us courage to stand up and stand with your beloved children. For
your love and justice is to be made manifest now and forever.
Amen.**

Communion Music: Selection by Clea Arbogast

Prayer Song and Response: Sacred Fire

**Sacred fire, burning before me,
Burning within me, deep in my soul.
Sacred fire, transforming fire,
Recreate me, make me whole**

Prayers of the People

**Julaine, Ray, Wanie, Norm, Jennie, Gary, Randy
Deborah, Jerry, Miguel, Steve, Jim, Andrea, Ruth Ann**

We pray for the family of Ann Downie whose daughter, Allison, died on May 21st.

Announcements

Sending 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 cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



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.

Benediction/Sharing of the Peace



Our salad/dessert luncheon will be on **June 11, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.**

(That is the second Thursday, I know, but a necessary change.)

I hope you can come and bring a friend, as well as a salad or dessert to share.

Sue Scott, our Faith Community Nurse, will be our special speaker.

Then we will take a break until September.

Hope to see you at church and then at WELCA.

IRONMAN Road Closures on Sunday, June 14th

The IRONMAN 70.3 Rockford will take place on **Sunday, June 14, 2026**. The race will prompt major road closures and traffic impacts throughout downtown Rockford, Winnebago County, and Rockton, starting as early as **Friday, June 12**, with the most extensive closures occurring on race day.

Key Race Day Closures (Sunday, June 14)

- **Downtown Rockford:** Major closures will impact the riverfront area, with specific downtown street closures beginning as early as 4:00 AM.
- **U.S. 20 Business (W. State St.):** Single-lane closures for both eastbound and westbound traffic spanning Kilburn Avenue through Chestnut Street between 6:30 AM and 2:30 PM.
- **Auburn St. & Pierpont Ave.:** Single-lane and full closures affecting North Pierpont Avenue and Auburn Street (between N. Pierpont and N. Springfield) from 7:00 AM to 2:30 PM.
- **North Rockford & Riverfront:** Rolling closures will affect North Main Street, Harlem Boulevard, Guard Street, National Avenue, and Douglas Street from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.
- **Whitman Street & N. 2nd Street:** Single lane and full closures for parts of Whitman Street (8:30 AM to 5:30 PM) and North 2nd Street (4:00 AM to 8:00 AM).

Synod Assembly is coming soon on June 12th and 13th, 2026
at Augustana College in Rock Island.
Lay and rostered members of Emmanuel attending.

Rostered Minister: Pastor Frank Langholf

Lay members: Holly Blair-Cascio

Kelli Luebke

Logan McMullen

Youth: Alex Johnson

“Nurture” Art Exhibit

“Nurture” is a mixed media art exhibit that focuses on artists’ perspective of the concept of Nurture. The Gallery will be open for your viewing pleasure T/W/Th 8:00 – 1:30 and on Sunday mornings.



FREE FIX-IT FAIR - WE REPAIR, REUSE, RENEW
Saturday, June 27th - 9:00am – 1:00pm
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 920 Third Avenue.
Community is invited.

We are collaborating with Sustain Rockford on June 27th. Bring your damaged items to be repaired by professionals at no cost!

What we fix: Small electronics and appliances
clothing repairs and mending
lamps and basic wiring, toys and more!

Please wash any clothing you would like us to mend.
No computer or phone repairs available.

If you are handy and would like to help, call Paula at 815-871-0120.

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