

**October 1, 2020**

**The deadline to submit newsletter articles for the next newsletter is October 15, 2020**

### **Greetings!**

Emmanuel's message comes from a passion for searching and studying sacred scriptures. Wisdom and inspiration is also drawn from a variety of other traditions, prophets, and all women and men who have a deeply personal and intimate relationship with God.

***Everyone is welcome at Emmanuel***

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We are in the midst of the wonder of autumn. The daylight hours are lessening, and the night hours are increasing. The leaves are turning colors, and are beginning to let go to fall upon the earth. There they will become one with the soil, and investing in a new generation. My favorite song for this season is "Leaves Don't Fall. They Just Let Go" by Carrie Newcomer. The following are the words of the chorus.

"Leaves don't drop they just let go,  
And make a place for seeds to grow.  
Every season brings a change,  
A seed is what a tree contains,  
To die and live is life's refrain."

May these words offer you wisdom for living. What are the aspects of ourselves that are called to let go to make room for growth? What is dying so that something else might live? What newness is a simple seed right now?

Emmanuel aspires to be the heart of Rockford with love for all. Justice is love active through advocacy so all may have full Life. We have the opportunity this month to recognize two marginalized groups, the LGBTQIA+ community, and the Indigenous Native American community. Columbus Day is Monday October 12, and Coming Out Day is October 11. Coming Out Day, October 11, honors the existence, experience, and expression of people who are LGBTQIA+. It also is an opportunity to commit ourselves to advocate for the full inclusion of every sexual orientation, and gender identity in church, community, and country. Columbus Day marks the beginning of the exploitation of the indigenous people of the Western Hemisphere, and has been renamed by some Indigenous Peoples Day. Our focus of our gathering on this weekend will be the witness of Indigenous people. We will listen to their wisdom, and we will consider how we might be advocates for them.

The early communities formed by Christ followers were inclusive of slave and free, wealthy and poor, Jew and gentile, Scythian and barbarian, male and female. These early Christian communities were colonies of the reign of God. In our time we are also a colony of the reign of God by welcoming and affirming the diversity of our time. Those early communities revealed the desire of the Divine by their common life. How might we also do the same? They lived in an authoritative Empire whose influence was limited to witness of their common life. We have the freedom to speak and act in ways that create a world where diversity is celebrated, and the oppressed are set free for Life and Love.

Spiritual Journeys is reading the book "See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love" by Valarie Kaur. I'd like to share a quote from that book as I end this article. "Our traditions are like treasure chests filled with scriptures, songs, and stories-some empower us to cast judgment and others shimmer with the call to love above all. There are no true or false interpretations. There are only those that destroy the world we want and those that create it. We get to decide which ones to hold in our hearts"

Blessings as you walk among the leaves that are letting go,

Pastor Frank

### **September 27, 2020 Worship in the Labyrinth**

Our September 27, 2020, outdoor Labyrinth service was truly a Cornucopia of Spirit with musical gifts by Tim and Emily Austin and Fran and Tom Wilson, Jim Roberts, Clea Arbogast, and Catherine Rennert. Holly Blair Cascio created a beautiful basket of fall flowers for the center of the labyrinth, and Pastor Frank Langholf offered a wonderful message as we gathered in the labyrinth and on Zoom. We treasure these opportunities to gather in person and in our "garden."





**Thank you to Holly Blair Cascio  
for this beautiful basket**



### **A Little History of Emmanuel - THOSE WERE THE DAYS**

Emmanuel Lutheran Church was organized July 20, 1882 with 85 members enrolled as charter members. In 1883, the church building was constructed and dedication services were held on October 14, 1883. The official language of the new church was Swedish. The church was affiliated with the General Synod of the Lutheran Church of America from 1882 until April 1890 when it joined with the Augustana Synod. At the time of affiliating with the Augustana Synod, the congregation had to repay \$8,000 to the General Synod for the title to the church building. Emmanuel, God with us.

On April 22, 1895, by a unanimous vote, the congregation decided to adopt the English language as the Word would be better understood by the growing number of children. Emmanuel was the first all-English speaking congregation of the Augustans Synod in the Rockford area.

The church at that time had various activities. There was always picnic on July 4th and

Sunday School picnic later in the summer. These were gala events. There were steamboats operating on the Rock River. A picnic meant a trip up the river to the picnic grounds, leaving in the morning and returning the early evening. There were church suppers, generally held in a hall on 7th Street because of lack of facilities in the church.

The Luther League was very active. Meetings were held monthly in the church. Some of their activities were sleigh ride, hikes, ice cream socials, moonlight excursions on the river, and automobile rides. In the early years automobiles were scarce, so the members who owned one would volunteer to drive. There would be a tour of the city and the nearby countryside, returning to church for refreshments.

The facilities in the old church were very limited. At one time there was a heating stove in the western end of the auditorium. On a cold Sunday morning, after a long walk to church, people would gather around the stove to thaw out before the services commenced.

On January 21, 1912 Pastor Hulda Johnson arrived in Rockford, to assume the duties at Emmanuel, then a congregation of 379 members. In October, 1913 they moved into the new parsonage built for them by the church, at 405 N. 4th Street.

More history of Emmanuel in the November newsletter.

Like Us On  
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### October Birthdays

- 2: Nate Campbell
- 6. Jenny Sparks
- 7. Lois Ference
- 8: Malinda Helge  
Dave Johnson
- 9. Jim Stout
- 11. Lucio Aldana
- 19. Amanda Roberts
- 21. Lou Ann Johnson
- 29. Kim Peterson
- 31. Ray Hodowanic

### Recently Hospitalized

Caryl Barnes  
Julaine Lofquist Birch

Our prayers are with the family and friends of Bev Hoof who died on Friday, Sept. 25th. Funeral service will be at 2:00pm, Friday, Oct. 2 at Olson Funeral Home, 1001 2nd Ave. Visitation from 1:00-



### **Emmanuel Friends and to Whom This May Concern, Healthy greetings from Chicago!**

Though I started my internship at Lutheran Church of the Ascension (Northfield, IL) in July, our Fall semester has officially just begun. Jay has a full course-load at UIC - taking classes remotely. The den in our apartment has been completely re-designed to accommodate us: one side being Jay's at-home classwork space and the other side being a sort of broadcasting area for me. I do plenty of Zoom meetings and record Daily Prayer from there.

1:45pm. Private burial will be held at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

### A Message from the Treasurer

Emmanuel needs your financial support. Just like you need an income to pay your electric, water and gas bills, the church has to pay its bills too. As we are not meeting in church, and we are not passing the offering plate, there are alternatives to give to your church:

We are now using a P.O. Box. Please use this address below for any correspondence and offerings to Emmanuel.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 4362  
Rockford, IL 61110

If you prefer to donate online, click [www.elcrockford.org](http://www.elcrockford.org) and click on the Donate button in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

Thank you for your support to your church! Questions?  
Call 815-963-4815

Jack Ream, Treasurer

### IN APPRECIATION

After many years as the chairperson for the memorial committee, Ms. Phyllis Weir has stepped down, but she has agreed to remain on the committee. We wish to deeply thank her for her dedicated countless hours heading the memorial committee.

Thank you also to Fran Hamm for agreeing to be the new chairperson. The memorial committee consists of Fran Hamm, Phyllis Weir, and

However, I am also working a lot at the church office, too (they actually gave me my very own, very first office - Cool!).

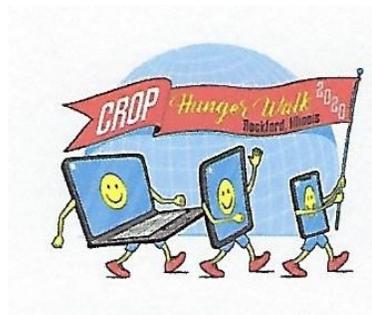
The people at Ascension have been extremely welcoming and very excited to have me as their "Vicar" (swanky title for 'intern'). I love working with my supervisor, too. She is a wise mentor and has a great sense of humor. I feel very blessed to be their intern! Though this is a strange time for an internship, I am thankful to be learning a TON - especially about how to innovatively and genuinely offer pastoral care during a global pandemic and through several national crises.

As it has for many of us, this time has definitely been an exercise in my own faith, but I am thankful for the support and affirmation Emmanuel continues to extend toward me. Knowing I have my faith family behind me still rooting me on is very much a source of my motivation these days. I am deeply grateful for your love and generosity.

Jay and I pray for you, often. Please remember to lift us up in prayer, as well (especially Jay's dad, Jim Schneppe, who is currently battling cancer).

We miss you, our friends and fellow choirings. Stay safe, and may the Spirit continue to bless you all with courage and imagination as we venture forward in faith, together.

Your brothers,  
-Phil and Jay Potaczek



### CROP Walk Goes Virtual for 2020

This year the Rockford Area CROP Hunger Walk will be a virtual one. In past years many who were unable to attend the event walked in spirit. Due to the Covid-19 virus this year, everyone will be a spirit walker in our virtual CROP Hunger Walk.

2020 marks the 51st year of the CROP Walk, sponsored by Church World Services. Rockford and Emmanuel have been part of the walk for over 20

Donna Anderson.

THANKS for all that everyone does to make our church come together.

Love, Susan Hurley &  
Dave Whitacre

### **Special Notice**

Emmanuel offers Zoom Sunday Worship Service Tuesday Book Study and Wednesday Bible Study. If you are interested in any of these, please call the church office at 815-963-4815 and leave a message.

### **Would you like to join the Noon Bible Study with Pastor Frank?**

If you do not have internet or don't like to use your computer, all you would have to do is use your telephone.

First, call the church office at 815-963-4815 on Tuesday morning. We will provide you with a telephone number to call, the meeting ID and passcode. Then dial that phone number provided, enter the meeting ID and the passcode when instructed.

That's it. Simple, and you will be joining the Bible Study.

Our Ministry Team and Pastor will continue to visit members and administer Holy Communion as soon as we are told it is safe.

In the meantime, if you know of anyone hospitalized or you would like to be placed on our prayer list, please call the church office at 815-963-4815 and leave a message.

years. The goal of the Rockford Area Walk this year is \$35,000.00, up \$10,000 from last year. 80% of the amount raised in the Rockford Walk goes to Church World Services which uses the money toward food security and nutrition, poverty, home displacement, disaster relief, educating and supporting women and children, water, sanitation, and hygiene as well as other needed support in countries that request their services.

20% of Rockford's total amount comes back to the Rockford Pantry Coalition, which includes 10 of the local pantries. Last year, of the \$33,000.00 that Rockford raised, \$6,600 came back to the Coalition and \$660 came to Emmanuel's Food Pantry.

Last year, Emmanuel raised \$1,060.00 for Crop Walk and we had about 10 walkers. This year our goal is \$1,500.00. To donate, enter "crophungerwalk.org" in your browser. In the upper right of the website, click on search and type in "Emmanuel Lutheran Rockford". Click on the dropdown box that says, "Emmanuel Lutheran Rockford, Rockford Area Crop Hunger Walk". Scroll down and click on "donate" and follow the instructions.

You may also make donations by cash or check. Make checks out to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, put "Crop Walk" on the memo line and mail to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 4362, Rockford, IL 61110, Attention: John Timmerwilke, or you may give cash or checks to John Timmerwilke, Kathlyn Wright, Ann Downie, or Lorraine Harding. The need is great this year due to Covid-19 causing so much unemployment, severe health issues, natural disasters, and droughts. Let's do what Emmanuel does and support this important mission.

### **2020 Flu vaccine info:**

Coronavirus-19 has interrupted many things in 2020, the most recent being the schedule of annual Flu vaccine clinics.

For those of you who want or ought to get an influenza vaccine, please consider these options:

Your primary care physician's office (call 1st to confirm supply, should only require a nurse appointment)  
Check out availability of vaccine at Walgreens, CVS, or other pharmacies:

Fri. 10/16 9:00-11:30 am Emmanuel Lutheran  
(920 Third Ave. Rockford, 61104)

### **Help Needed**

Zion Lutheran has been hosting the Lutheran World Relief truck for the quilt collections every year, and are planning to again this year but we have very few volunteers to help. Would it be possible for anyone in your congregations to assist us in the collection of quilts for the truck? We accept drop offs on Saturday, October 3 from 9:00-noon, and on Sunday, October 4th from noon until done. Areas we need help with range from stacking boxes in the truck, writing donation information down, and helping label unlabeled boxes. It goes by quickly but without volunteers it will unfortunately be the last year we will be able to host the truck.

Please let me know if you would like to help.

Jolyn Hess, Office Manager  
Zion Lutheran Church  
925 Fifth Ave  
Rockford, IL 61108  
815-964-4609  
FAX 815-964-4652  
[www.zionrockford.com](http://www.zionrockford.com)

**Emmanuel's Food Pantry is open Mondays and Fridays from 9:30-11:30am.**

**Wear your masks. Social distancing is observed.**

### **PLASTIC BAGS NEEDED FOR THE PANTRY**

The pantry is in need of lots of plastic and paper bags. Please

Vaccine provided by Walgreens: Medicare, Medicaid, most insurances accepted (call Walgreens to confirm) or private pay (regular vaccine \$41, high dose \$73.) Mask & social distancing required. Watch for signs (north alley entrance at ramp.)

Blood donors needed!

If you are willing & able to be a blood donor, would you make an appointment soon? The lifting of restrictions at local hospitals means more surgeries are being performed...and the Rock River Valley Blood Center is making up for lost time & donors! (Word is that your blood will also be tested for the presence of C-19 antibodies!) I donated today and was in & out in 45 minutes. Besides, the popcorn is always a great reward, right?

I miss your faces! May God keep us safe & healthy as we gather, tentatively perhaps, and perhaps w/ masks and face shields.

Peace to you all!

Want to talk? Have a health concern?  
Call Sue, Faith Community Nurse.

Sue Scott, BSN, RN-BC  
815-222-1299



**Northern Illinois Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

Dear friends,

The Creation Care Team, a sub-committee of the Northern Illinois Synod Social Ministry Committee is excited to offer a seven-session Book Study via the Zoom Platform, on the book *Rooted & Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis*, edited by Leah D. Schade and Margaret Bullitt-Jonas. The Book Study will begin on Tuesday, October 6 at 7 p.m., with the subsequent sessions each Tuesday evening through Tuesday, November 17.

The Book Study will be led and facilitated by members of the Creation Care Team. The hope is that through reading and conversation, participants will gain a better understanding of how to care for this Earth given to us by our Creator and also learn ways to incorporate care for creation into our spiritual practices.

save your bags. Bring them to church, park in the back parking lot during pantry time and someone will come to the door to get your bags.

Rockford MidTown Market  
Saturday mornings  
9:00am-1:00pm thru Oct.  
501 7th Street  
in the RPS205 Administration  
building parking lot.

Stop over and enjoy the ethnic food, farm produce, coffee drinks, etc. Also available are the Health and community information booths and blood pressure checks.

Walking Club each Saturday at 9:15am in front of Katie's Cup. All are welcome.

**Click on Links:**

Map to Emmanuel Lutheran  
<http://goo.gl/maps/fA5d2>

Website: [www.elcrockford.org](http://www.elcrockford.org)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
920 Third Avenue  
Rockford, IL 61104

At the present time, we are using a P.O. Box as our mailing address:

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 4362  
Rockford, IL 61110

815-963-4815  
Fax: 815-963-4808

[emmanuelchurch07@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelchurch07@gmail.com)  
[elcrockford.org](http://elcrockford.org)

Pastor Frank Langholf  
309-509-5241  
[fslangholf@gmail.com](mailto:fslangholf@gmail.com)

Forget the past,

For more information and to register for the Book Study, please click on this link: Register for the "Rooted and Rising" Book Study here.

There is no cost to participate, although participants will need to buy the book which is available from the usual book sellers. It is available as an e-book and either via hardcover or paperback.

If you have any questions, please contact Becky Keller at [bfkeller@yahoo.com](mailto:bfkeller@yahoo.com).

Peace,  
Deacon Cheryl Erdmann (she/her/hers)  
Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA  
Augustana College - Sorensen Hall 322  
639 38th Street  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
Office Phone: (309) 794-4004 (Ms. Nancy Corey)  
Mobile Phone: (815) 236-6657

**Katie's Choir Book Club**  
**Thursday, October 8th, 10:00am on zoom**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 859 8969 2825**  
**Passcode: 977072**

**Murder on the Oxford Canal**  
**by Faith Martin**

**A gripping crime mystery full of twists.**

MEET DI HILLARY GREENE, A POLICE WOMAN  
FIGHTING TO SAVE HER CAREER

Not only has she lost her husband, but his actions have put her under investigation for corruption.

All are invited as we engage in conversations about books of interested to you!

Books are available from the usual book sellers or your may purchase one at Katie's Cup. Corner of 7th Street and 4th Avenue.

**2020 Congregation Council**

Pastor Frank Langholf  
President: Jennifer Olson  
Vice President: Catherine Rennert

for it is gone from your  
domain!  
Forget the future,  
for it is beyond your reach!  
Control the present!  
Live supremely well now!  
This is the way of the wise!  
-Paramahansa Yogananda

Secretary: Karen Van Howe  
Treasurer: Jack Ream

Buildings & Grounds: Chuck Johnson  
Caring Connections/

Social Justice: Lou Ann Johnson

Finance: Jack Ream

Membership: Dawn Johnson

Adult Education: Holly Blair-Cascio

CAS Catherine Rennert

At Large: Caryl Barnes

nA Downie

Don Heckelmiller

Sally Susan

Gary Peterson

Erik Johnson

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