EMANUEL LUTHERAN • A BIBLE-BASED CHURCH • 1540 W. LODI AVE 95242

JULY 2026 NEWS

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Emanuel Family,

July has arrived, and with it the long, golden days of summer—days filled with sunshine, warm evenings, barbecues, and the simple joy of being outdoors. There is something about this season that feels expansive and freeing. Perhaps that's why July is the perfect month to reflect not only on our national independence, but also on our **independence in Christ**—a freedom deeper and more enduring than anything the world can offer.

In Christ, we are set free from fear, from guilt, from the weight of trying to earn God's love. We are free to live with joy, to serve with compassion, and to walk in the newness of life that the Resurrection has given us. As Paul reminds us: **"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."** (Galatians 5:1)

This freedom is not a license to drift through life, but an invitation to live with purpose. It is a call to let our faith take shape in our actions—through kindness, through service, through generosity, and through the simple courage of inviting someone to church. Summer gives us countless opportunities to do just that. A neighbor watering their garden. A coworker sharing weekend plans. A friend looking for connection. These moments become holy openings for grace.

As the warmth of July settles in, I encourage you to let the sunshine and beauty of creation remind you of the **new life** you have because of the Resurrection. Every sunrise, every blooming flower, every warm breeze is a quiet sermon whispering, "Christ is alive—and so are you." Let this season renew your spirit. Let it soften your heart. Let it inspire you to shine the light of Christ in ways both simple and profound.

This is also a wonderful time to practice hospitality. Summer gatherings, outdoor meals, and relaxed schedules create natural opportunities to build relationships. Consider inviting someone to worship, to a church event, or even just to share a cup of coffee. Sometimes the smallest invitation becomes the doorway to a life-changing encounter with God.

As we move deeper into the **Regular Season** of the church year, we remember that discipleship is not just lived on the mountaintops of Christmas and Easter, but in the steady, faithful rhythms of ordinary days. This is where our independence in Christ becomes visible—where freedom becomes service, where grace becomes action, where faith becomes love.

I am grateful for each of you and for the ways you embody Christ's presence in this community. May this July be a month of joy, renewal, and Spirit-filled freedom. And may the warmth of summer remind you daily of the warmth of God's love—steady, strong, and always leading us forward.

With a shepherd's heart,
Pastor Heath

Council Highlights June 2026

1. Opening Prayer and Scripture reading by Pastor Heath Psalm 34:1B-8
2. VBS: 30 kids registered for VBS this year with lots of returning kids!
3. Youth and Family: On summer break
4. Grounds: Joe Nye advised we had an anonymous donor-donating $4500 towards purchase of a riding lawnmower. A shed has been purchased and is now located in the last two parking slots in back parking lot. (Funds for shed taken from designated funds for landscaping and facility use section.)
5. Facility Use: Sue O. discussed possibility of Grace and Mercy using our facility for food distribution. She will ride along with Owner to observe process and feasibility (determining commitments, time requirements, etc.)
6. Benevolence: Motion made to give $300 to Grace and Mercy by Maddie H. 2nd by Sue O. Motion passed.
7. Vandalism: with recent cases of vandalism-we are looking into cost of updating and/or replacing current camera system.
8. Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

Designated Accounts		Amount
	Boutique	$ 272.80
	Choir Fund	$ 836.18
	Christmas Tea	$ 2,399.38
	Community Outreach	$ 1,721.81
	Contingency Account	$ 15,000.00
	Designated Gifting	$ 44,660.98
	Emanuel Cares	$ 2,416.99
	Facility Use	$ 6,631.61
	Fellowship	$ (9.99)
	Fundraiser Dinners	$ 2,649.33
	Funeral Fund	$ 2,036.36
	Lodi House	$ 351.00
	Mission	$ 100.00
	Parking Lot Improvements	$ 66,073.91
	Portals of Prayer	$ 97.00
	Wedding Fund	$ 75.00
	Women's Ministry	$ 1,240.86
	Youth Ministry	$ 21,718.82
	Total Designated Accounts	**$ 168,272.04**
General Financials		
	May Offerings	$ 19,509.55
	May Expenses	$ 19,871.48
	Net May Income/(Loss)	$ (361.93)
	General Bank Balance	**$ 66,680.68**
Investments		
	Thrivent & Global Atlantic	$ 232,134.06
	Vanguard	$ 42,268.65
YTD Totals		
	Memorial Account	$ 19,733.61
	Building Account	$ 17,490.45

Sunday Worship: 9:30 AM

Church Office Hours:
Mon. – Thurs. 9am—4pm

Phone:
209.334.2130

Pastor:
Rev. Heath Brady
Pastor@Emanuellodi.com

Administrative Secretary:
Amy Agno
Office@Emanuellodi.com

Church Council:
President: Linda Nye
VP: Suzanne Seiler
Fellowship: Susan Oesterman
Secretary: Denise Nieves
Treasurer: Tami Herendeen
Staff: Madeline Haugen
Pastor: Rev. Heath Brady

Get Involved

- Please check the Sunday **Altar Flower Chart** and consider providing flowers to honor a loved one, for a special day, or to the Glory of God!

- Consider serving through our **Saints in Service** ministry! Check the sign-up sheets at the Welcome Center and find a way to share your gifts with our church family.

July 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Highlights: 1 Celebration Luncheon 9 Youth Baking Event 15 WOW Dinner 24 Family Movie Night ***Office Hours:*** 9AM to 4PM Mon. – Thurs.			1 **12PM** Celebration Luncheon (Hollywood Cafe)	2 **9AM** Women's Fellowship (SH)	3	4 Happy INDEPENDENCE Day!
5 **9:30AM** Worship Service	6 **OFFICE CLOSED** in observance of July 4th	7 **8AM** Men's Bible (FR) **10:30AM and 1:30PM** Women's Bible (FR)	8	9 **9AM** Women's Fellowship (SH) **10:30AM** Youth Baking Event (SH)	10	11
12 **9:30AM** Worship Service	13 **9:30AM** Body & Soul Fitness (SH) **12PM** Bunco (SH)	14 **8AM** Men's Bible (FR) **10:30AM and 1:30PM** Women's Bible (FR) **5PM** Council (FR)	15 **6PM** WOW Dinner (SH)	16 **9AM** Women's Fellowship (SH)	17	18 **8AM** Joint Men's Breakfast at Ham Lane Church
19 **9:30AM** Worship Service	20 **9:30AM** Body & Soul Fitness (SH) **12PM** Bunco (SH)	21 **8AM** Men's Bible (FR) **10:30AM and 1:30PM** Women's Bible (FR)	22	23 **9AM** Women's Fellowship (SH)	24 **6:30PM** Family Movie Night (SH)	25
26 **9:30AM** Worship Service	27 **9:30AM** Body & Soul Fitness (SH) **12PM** Bunco (SH)	28 **8AM** Men's Bible (FR) **10:30AM and 1:30PM** Women's Bible (FR)	29	30 **9AM** Women's Fellowship (SH)	31	

Birthdays:

3 – Isabella Handel
6 – Christopher Mann
11 – Erika Loutzenheiser
11 – Jocelyn Shelley
12 – Oliver Shelley
12 – Marlene Tillman
15 – Beth Abinati
15 – Michael Mayo
18 – Darleen Beckler
22 – Norma Mann
27 – Helmuth Himmrich
29 – Carol Mounce
31 – Amy Agno

Anniversaries:

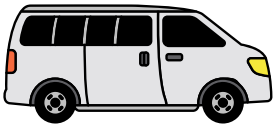
12 – Jeffrey & Kristi Oborn (29)

SAINTS IN SERVICE

July 2026

Role	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Acolyte	Jackie Sandoval	Austin Miles	Lynsey Shelley	Breanna Berreth
Altar Care	Barbara Ritchie Joy Vaughan	Cara Bender	Anna Farley Elsie Mounce	Gayle Peery Carol Ritchie
Altar Flowers	Cara Bender	Need Volunteer	Cindy Pitto	Need Volunteer
Communion Asst	LaVerne Burns	Kathy Linz	Cara Bender	Gary Herendeen
Greeters	Gary Herendeen Tami Herendeen	Cara Bender Suzanne Seiler	Cindy Pitto Carol Mounce	Lisa Berreth Donna Lang
Lector	Jackie Sandoval	Amy Agno	Suzanne Seiler	Breanna Berreth
Prayer Partner	Carol Mounce	Suzanne Seiler	Suzanne Seiler	Cara Bender

Transportation Ministry Schedule		
July Drivers		
Date	**Driver**	**Phone**
July 5	Steve Mayo	993-9151
July 12	Gary Herendeen	327-7021
July 19	Susan Oesterman	482-5537
July 26	June Aaker	912-8391



Riders	
Delbert Bezug	747-1718
Delores Klipfel	368-0808

Need a ride? Please contact the scheduled driver before Sunday.