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

AUG 2026 NEWS

A Letter From The Pastor

Dear Emanuel Family,

August has arrived, settling us right into the warm heart of summer. The days stretch long, the evenings glow softly, and creation seems to hum with life. There's something about this month that invites us to slow down, breathe deeply, and pay attention to the goodness of God woven into every sunrise, every warm breeze, every moment of rest and renewal. And right here, in the middle of summer, we're reminded of a deeper freedom—the beautiful truth of our independence in Christ.

In Christ, we are set free from fear, from guilt, from the pressure to prove ourselves, and from the weight of trying to earn what God has already given. We are free to live with joy, to serve with compassion, and to walk in the newness of life that the Resurrection has made possible. Scripture encourages us in this calling: "If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

This newness isn't just a theological idea—it's a way of life. It's the invitation to live as Easter Christians every single day, letting the warmth of summer remind us of the warmth of God's love, and letting the beauty of creation remind us of the beauty of the new life we've been given. Every bright morning, every blooming flower, every golden evening is a quiet sermon whispering, "Christ is alive—and His life is at work in you."

And with that new life comes a calling: servanthood. Not servanthood out of obligation, but out of joy. Out of gratitude. Out of the freedom we have in Christ. This month, I encourage you to let your faith take shape in your actions—through kindness, through generosity, through the simple courage of inviting someone to church. Summer gives us countless opportunities for this. A neighbor mowing their lawn. A colleague sharing weekend plans. A friend looking for connection with a church family. These moments become holy openings for grace.

Servanthood is one of the clearest ways we live out our independence in Christ. The world often tells us independence means doing everything ourselves. Christ shows us that true independence—true freedom—is found in loving others, lifting others, and serving others. It's found in living differently, choosing compassion, and shining with the light of Christ in ways both simple and profound.

As we move through August, I hope you'll let the season speak to your spirit. Let the sunshine warm your heart. Let the long days remind you that God's mercies are new every morning. Let the beauty of nature remind you that resurrection is not just something that happened long ago—it's something God is doing in you right now.
I am grateful for each of you—for your faith, your joy, your generosity, and your willingness to be the hands and feet of Christ in this community. May this August be a month of renewal, service, 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 July 2026

1. Opening Devotion. The meeting was called to order with prayer and a Scripture reading from Philippians 1:12–21 led by Pastor Heath.
2. Church Management Software. Additional training will be provided for staff as the church continues transitioning from Shepherd's Staff to Planning Center.
3. Family Movie Night. Family Movie Night will be held Friday, July 24 on the back patio featuring The Princess Bride. Hot dogs, popcorn, and other treats will be provided.
4. Newsletter Distribution. Printed newsletters will continue to be mailed to members who do not have internet access.
5. Security & Property. The church security system has been updated, including the installation of new cameras.
6. The council is seeking additional quotes for repaving the parking lot.
7. Benevolence Ministry. The July benevolence recipient is currently being researched.
8. Items Carried Forward
    - Update on the Grace & Mercy ride-along program.
    - Safe Church Emergency & Recovery Plan.
    - Parking lot paving estimates.
    - Member care, including check-ins, pastoral visits, and phone calls.

Designated Accounts		**Amount**	
	Boutique	$	272.80
	Choir Fund	$	836.18
	Christmas Tea	$	2,399.38
	Community Outreach	$	10,712.64
	Contingency Account	$	15,000.00
	Designated Gifting	$	49,660.98
	Emanuel Cares	$	2,416.99
	Facility Use	$	4,098.11
	Fellowship	$	(208.89)
	Fundraiser Dinners	$	2,649.33
	Funeral Fund	$	2,046.65
	Lodi House	$	588.00
	Mission	$	100.00
	Parking Lot Improvements	$	66,103.91
	Portals of Prayer	$	(29.20)
	Wedding Fund	$	75.00
	Women's Ministry	$	654.43
	Youth Ministry	$	21,557.64
	Total Designated Accounts	**$**	**178,933.95**
General Financials			
	June Offerings	$	11,558.70
	June Expenses	$	20,773.45
	Net Income/(Loss)	$	(9,214.75)
	General Bank Balance	**$**	**54,921.64**
Investments			
	Thrivent & Global Atlantic	$	221,433.06
	Vanguard	$	42,268.65
YTD Totals			
	Memorial Account	$	20,093.61
	Building Account	$	17,830.45

Sunday Worship: 9:30 AM

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

Phone:
209.334.2130

Pastor:
Rev. Heath Brady
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Administrative Secretary:
Amy Agno
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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.