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

SEPT. 2026 NEWS

A Letter From The Pastor

Dear Emanuel Family,

September has arrived, and with it comes the gentle turning of the seasons. The long, warm days of summer begin to soften, the evenings grow cooler, and creation prepares for its annual transformation. Autumn has a way of reminding us that change—real, holy, Spirit-led change—is not only possible, but beautiful. And as the leaves begin to turn, we remember the deeper transformation God has worked in us: our newness in Christ.

Scripture proclaims this truth with joy: “If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

This newness is not a one-time event. It is a daily invitation. A calling. A way of life. Just as the seasons shift, so does the Spirit’s work within us—renewing, reshaping, and guiding us into lives that reflect Christ’s love. Autumn’s beauty becomes a sermon of its own, reminding us that spiritual change is not something to fear, but something to embrace.

And one of the clearest ways we live out this newness is through servanthood. Not servanthood rooted in obligation, but in joy. In gratitude. In the freedom we have because of the Resurrection. 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. A neighbor raking leaves. A coworker sharing weekend plans. A friend looking for connection. These moments become holy openings for grace.

Our ministries here at Emanuel continue to grow, and each one is strengthened when someone steps forward to serve. Whether it’s helping with worship, supporting our youth and children’s ministry, joining a hospitality team, assisting with outreach, or offering your gifts in a new way—your presence matters. Your service matters. Your willingness to say “yes” matters. Each act of servanthood becomes a living testimony of the new life Christ has given you.

As we move into September, I hope you’ll let the changing of the seasons speak to your spirit. Let the crisp mornings remind you of God’s mercies made new. Let the turning leaves remind you that transformation is part of God’s design. Let the beauty of autumn remind you that resurrection is not just something that happened long ago—it is something God is doing in you right now.

We are Easter people—even in September. Even in the middle of autumn. Even in the ordinary rhythms of life. And Easter people live differently. We serve differently. We love differently. We shine differently. Because Christ has made us new.

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 September be a month of renewal, service, and Spirit-filled transformation. And may the beauty of autumn remind you daily of the beauty of God’s work in your life.

With a shepherd’s heart,
Pastor Heath

Council Highlights August 2026

1. Meeting called to order by President Linda Nye. Pastor Heath was absent due to illness.
2. Caring Connections Committee is developing plans for checking in with and supporting members.
3. Council discussed custodial needs and possible changes to current services.
4. Women's Ministry will repair the kitchen freezer until enough funds are raised for replacement.
5. Monthly ice machine maintenance and several restroom repairs are being arranged.
6. Council reviewed the church's financial situation, including a growing budget shortfall, and discussed the need to address ongoing financial concerns.
7. August benevolence of $150 will go to Directions Medical.
8. German Dinner canceled due to insufficient volunteers. Plans for the annual Boutique are still being explored.
9. Social Hall seating diagrams will be created to help groups return tables and chairs to their proper locations.
10. Kick-Off Sunday moved to September 20, with a potluck and movie.
11. Council discussed ideas for new fellowship and community events in 2027.
12. A new form will track items donated, loaned, or purchased for the church.
13. Visitor flyers will be created with information about worship and upcoming church activities.
14. Council is discussing plans for future community events, including Harvestfest.

Designated Accounts		
Boutique	$	272.80
Choir Fund	$	836.18
Christmas Tea	$	2,399.38
Community Outreach	$	10,850.64
Contingency Account	$	15,000.00
Designated Gifting	$	38,996.90
Emanuel C: ares	$	2,416.99
Facility Use	$	4,243.11
Fellowship	$	(194.56)
Fundraiser Dinners	$	2,649.33
Funeral Fund	$	1,939.45
Lodi House	$	688.00
Mission	$	100.00
Parking Lot Improvements	$	66,103.91
Portals of Prayer	$	(9.20)
Wedding Fund	$	75.00
Women's Ministry	$	754.43
Youth Ministry	$	21,557.64
Total Designated Accounts	$	168,680.00
General Bank Balance	$	46,503.87
Thrivent & Global Atlantic	$	221,433.10
Vanguard	$	42,268.65
YTD Memorial Account	$	20,093.61
YTD Building Account	$	17,830.45
General Financials		
July Offerings	$	11,638.75
July Expenses	$	21,868.97
Net July Income/(Loss)	$	(10,230.22)
YTD General Offerings	$	123,110.00
YTD General Expenses	$	176,577.90
	$	(53,467.80)

A few pics from our Concert on the Green 8/28

EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 Haugan
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.

Office Hours:
9AM to 4PM
Mon. – Thurs.

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Highlights: 2 Celebration Luncheon 16 WOW Dinner 20 Kick Off Sunday w/potluck & movie		1 **10:30AM and 1:30PM** Women's Bible (FR)	2 **12PM** Celebration Luncheon (Yen Ching)	3 **9:30AM** Sew&Sew's Women's Fellowship (SH)	4	5
6 **9:30AM** Worship Service	7 **9:30AM** Body & Soul Fitness (SH) **12PM** Bunco (SH)	8 **10:30AM and 1:30PM** Women's Bible (FR) **5PM** Council (FR)	9	10 **9:30AM** Sew&Sew's Women's Fellowship (SH)	11	12
13 **9:30AM** Worship Service	14 **9:30AM** Body & Soul Fitness (SH) **12PM** Bunco (SH)	15 **10:30AM and 1:30PM** Women's Bible (FR)	16 **6PM** WOW Dinner (SH)	17 **9:30AM** Sew&Sew's Women's Fellowship (SH)	18	19
20 **9:30AM** Worship Service **KICK OFF SUNDAY! Potluck and Movie after church**	21 **9:30AM** Body & Soul Fitness (SH) **12PM** Bunco (SH)	22 **10:30AM and 1:30PM** Women's Bible (FR)	23	24 **9:30AM** Sew&Sew's Women's Fellowship (SH)	25	26
27 **9:30AM** Worship Service **6PM** Youth Group	28 **9:30AM** Body & Soul Fitness (SH) **12PM** Bunco (SH)	29	30			

Celebrations

Birthdays:

Sep 1 - Betty Russow
Sep 3 - LaVerne Burns
Sep 3 - Eric Sorensen
Sep 6 - Oliver Shelley
Sep 12 - Bonnie Weisz
Sep 13 - Marsha Yost
Sep 15 - Jack Kautz
Sep 17 - Suzanne Seiler
Sep 19 - Donna Mayo
Sep 23 - Joy Vaughan
Sep 28 - Jamie Cawelti
Sep 28 - Joe Nye

Anniversaries:

Sep 15 Mary and Doug Barr (48)
Sep 18 David and Denise Schamber (55)

SAINTS IN SERVICE

Sept. 2026

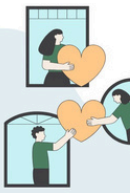
Role	Sept. 6	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27
Acolyte	Kathy Linz	Jackie Sandoval	Austin Miles	Breanna Barreth
Communion Asst	Traudi King	Cara Bender	Phil Abba	June Aaker
Greeters	Joanne Stewart Jane King	Lisa Barreth Breanna Barreth	Susan Osterman Cindy Pitto	Carol Mounce Maddie Haugan
Lector	Cara Bender	Traudi King	Linda Nye	Traudi King
Prayer Partner	Cara Bender	Carol Mounce	Cara Bender	Suzanne Seiler
Altar Flowers	---	---	Larry Seiler for Suzanne's 75th Birthday	---
Altar Care	Carol Muller	Barbara Ritchie & Joy Vaughan	Cara Bender	Anna Farley & Elsie Mounce
Transportation	Susan Osterman 482-5537	Gary Herendeen 327-7021	June Aaker 912-8391	Gary Herendeen 327-7021

Need a ride? Contact the scheduled driver before Sunday.

🌿 CARING CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE 💚

A Simple Call Can Make a Big Difference

Help us share Christ's love by connecting with our church family.



❤️ **Pray with and encourage those on our Prayer List**
🏠 **Check in with our Homebound Members**
📞 **Reach out to members who have missed worship for a couple of weeks**
💌 **Let every member know they are loved, remembered, and missed**

Get Involved

Please see June Aaker or contact the church office.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up."
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Women's Bible Study

The Holy Spirit You May Not Know

Understand the Holy Spirit as a distinct person

Starting Tuesday, August 11 at 10:30am & 1:30pm