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

# OCT. 2026 NEWS

## A Letter From The Pastor

Dear Emanuel Family,

October has arrived, bringing with it the unmistakable signs of autumn. The days grow shorter, the air begins to cool, and fields and gardens remind us that this is a season of harvest—a time to gather, to give thanks, and to recognize the fruit that has grown from seeds planted long before.

Scripture reminds us, “Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)

That is an important word for the Church.

Much of the work God calls us to do does not produce immediate results. We pray. We serve. We worship. We care for one another. We welcome a visitor, encourage a friend, teach a child, help a neighbor, or quietly lend a hand where it is needed. Often, we may never see what grows from those moments.
But God does.

The life of faith is filled with seeds planted in hope and entrusted to God. A simple act of kindness can become a reminder that someone is not alone. An invitation to worship can open a door for someone searching for a church home. A word of encouragement can arrive at exactly the moment it is needed. God can take even the smallest acts of faithfulness and use them in ways we may never fully know.

Here at Emanuel, we see those seeds being planted in many ways. They are planted through worship and fellowship, through caring for one another, through our ministries and outreach, and through the many people who quietly give their time and talents to serve. Each of us has a place in that work.

Jesus reminds us that He is the vine and we are the branches. The fruit we bear does not come from our own strength, but from remaining connected to Him. As we abide in Christ, His love begins to take shape in our lives—in patience, generosity, compassion, forgiveness, joy, and service to others.

So as we enter this season of harvest, I encourage you to notice where God is at work. Give thanks for the seeds others have planted in your life. Look for opportunities to plant seeds of grace in the lives of others. And when the work seems slow, remember Paul’s encouragement: do not grow weary in doing good.

We may not always see the harvest, but we trust the One who brings the growth.

I am grateful for the many ways you continue to love, serve, worship, and care for one another here at Emanuel. May this October be a season of gratitude for what God has already done, faithfulness in the work He has given us today, and hope for what He is still bringing to life among us.

With a shepherd’s heart,
Pastor Heath

## Council Highlights Sept. 2026

1. Meeting called to order with Scripture reading and prayer from Matthew 10:34–39. August minutes were approved.
2. June Aaker shared fundraising ideas for 2027, including possible partnerships with local nonprofits and businesses.
3. An update was provided on the Caring Connections Committee.
4. Work continues on the 2027 budget. The Benevolence category will be renamed Missions.
5. A $150 mission donation was made to the Boys & Girls Club.
6. Work continues to secure nonprofit benefits and discounted services through Google and to review copier costs.
7. Event Planning and Activities for 2027 will be the focus of a Town Hall on October 18, with everyone invited to share positive ideas for the coming year.
8. Men's Bible Study is temporarily on hiatus.
9. Harvest Fest is planned for October 4.
10. Funds were approved to replace broken sprinklers on the church property.

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|---|---|
| **Designated Accounts** | |
| Boutique | $ 272.80 |
| Choir Fund | $ 836.18 |
| Christmas Tea | $ 2,399.38 |
| Community Outreach | $ 10,990.64 |
| Contingency Account | $ 15,000.00 |
| Designated Gifting | $ 37,096.42 |
| Emanuel Cares | $ 2,416.99 |
| Facility Use | $ 4,342.11 |
| Fellowship | $ 102.46 |
| Fundraiser Dinners | $ 2,649.33 |
| Funeral Fund | $ 1,939.45 |
| Lodi House | $ 820.00 |
| Mission | $ 100.00 |
| Parking Lot Improvements | $ 66,268.91 |
| Portals of Prayer | $ 105.80 |
| Wedding Fund | $ 75.00 |
| Women's Ministry | $ 754.43 |
| Youth Ministry | $ 21,432.06 |
| Total Designated Accounts | $ 167,601.96 |
| **Account** | |
| General Bank Balance | $ 31,329.69 |
| Thrivent | $ 104,440.44 |
| Global Atlantic Financial | $ 116,992.62 |
| Vanguard | $ 41,983.38 |
| YTD Memorial Account | $ 20,143.61 |
| YTD Building Account | $ 18,390.45 |
| **General Financials** | |
| August Offerings | $ 13,383.47 |
| August Expenses | $ 20,461.60 |
| August Net | $ (7,078.13) |
| | |
| YTD General Offerings | $ 136,493.51 |
| YTD General Expenses | $ 199,312.43 |
| YTD Net | $ (62,818.92) |

WHAT'S NEW

## A Fresh Space for Our Youngest Families

Our Children's Room has gotten a fresh start! The space has been cleaned out and reorganized to create a more welcoming and useful Family Room for families with babies, toddlers, and preschool-aged children.

Inside, families will find a selection of age-appropriate toys, books, and activities, along with rocking chairs and a table and chairs for coloring and play. Toys and activities will be rotated from time to time to keep things fresh and fun for our youngest members.

We're also working on setting up the TV so families will soon be able to watch the worship service from the room when little ones need a little extra wiggle room.

There are still a few finishing touches to come, but we're excited to have a space designed with young families in mind. Most importantly, we want families to know that little ones are always welcome at Emanuel!

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.

# OCTOBER 2026

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1<br>**9:30AM** Sew&Sew's Women's Fellowship (SH)<br>**3PM** Bible Study (FR) | 2 | 3 |
| 4<br>**Harvestfest** | 5<br>**9:30AM** Body & Soul Fitness (SH)<br>**12PM** Bunco (SH) | 6<br>**10:30AM and 1:30PM** Women's Bible (FR)<br>**5PM** Council (FR) | 7<br>**12PM** Celebration Luncheon (Yen Ching)<br>**1:30** Youth Cooking Class (Tortillas) | 8<br>**9:30AM** Sew&Sew's Women's Fellowship (SH)<br>**3PM** Bible Study (FR) | 9 | 10 |
| 11<br>**9:30AM** Worship Service<br>**6PM** Youth Group | 12<br>**9:30AM** Body & Soul Fitness (SH)<br>**12PM** Bunco (SH) | 13<br>**10:30AM and 1:30PM** Women's Bible (FR) | 14 | 15<br>**9:30AM** Sew&Sew's Women's Fellowship (SH)<br>**3PM** Bible Study (FR) | 16 | 17 |
| 18<br>**9:30AM** Worship Service<br>**6PM** Youth Group | 19<br>**9:30AM** Body & Soul Fitness (SH)<br>**12PM** Bunco (SH) | 20<br>**10:30AM and 1:30PM** Women's Bible (FR) | 21<br>**6PM** WOW Dinner (SH) and Fallfest | 22<br>**9:30AM** Sew&Sew's Women's Fellowship (SH)<br>**3PM** Bible Study (FR) | 23 | 24 |
| 25<br>**9:30AM** Worship Service<br>**6PM** Youth Group | 26<br>**9:30AM** Body & Soul Fitness (SH)<br>**12PM** Bunco (SH) | 27<br>**10:30AM and 1:30PM** Women's Bible (FR) | 28 | 29<br>**9:30AM** Sew&Sew's Women's Fellowship (SH)<br>**3PM** Bible Study (FR) | 30 | 31 |

## Celebrations

### Birthdays:

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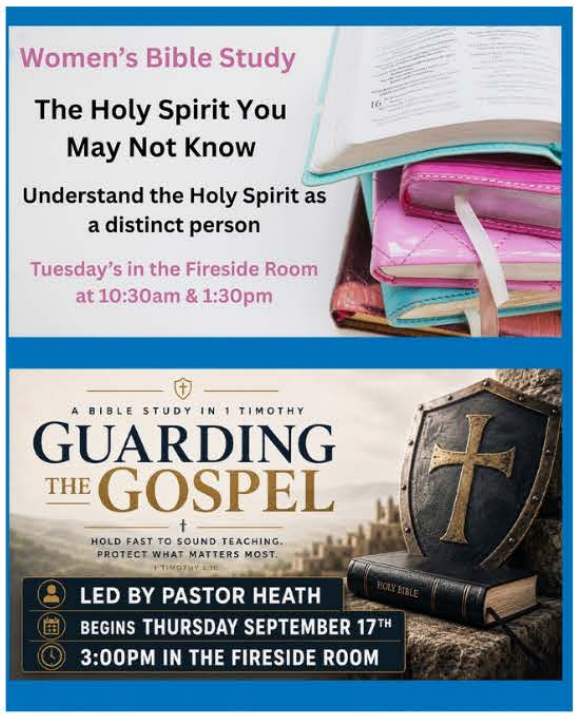
Oct 1 — Reese Vaccarezza
Oct 6 — Vernon Boyett
Oct 6 — Lee Ann Nitschke
Oct 7 — Mary Barr
Oct 7 — Dolores Klipfel (100 years!)
Oct 11 — Tami Herendeen
Oct 13 — Phil Abba
Oct 19 — Gail Kautz
Oct 19 — Cindy Pitto
Oct 21 — Debbie Aman
Oct 21 — Cindy Martin
Oct 23 — Carol Ritchie
Oct 23 — Eldo Wenger
Oct 27 — Joyce Meredith
Oct 31 — Kurt Kautz

### Anniversaries:

Oct 3 — Dennis and Madeline Haugan (62)
Oct 3 — Gary and Mary Ochsner (45)
Oct 6 — Adam and Brittany Morgan (19)
Oct 9 — Wendell and Chris Youngsma (33)
Oct 10 — Kurt and Sandee Kautz (34)
Oct 14 — Scott and Jane King (37)
Oct 18 — Jakob and Alanna Youngsma (1)
Oct 21 — Dennis and MarJo Rivinius (66)
Oct 25 — Norma and David Mann (57)



# SAINTS IN SERVICE

## Oct. 2026

| Role | Oct. 4 | Oct. 11 | Oct 18 | Oct. 25 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Acolyte** | HARVESTFEST | Austin Miles | Breanna Barreth | Jackie Sandoval |
| **Communion Asst** | HARVESTFEST | Kathy Linz | June Aaker | Gary Herendeen |
| **Greeters** | HARVESTFEST | Cara Bender<br>Maddie Haugan | Carol Mounce<br>Elaine Ulrich | Maddie Haugan<br>Cindy Pitto |
| **Lector** | HARVESTFEST | Phil Abba | Carol Muller | Traudi King |
| **Prayer Partner** | HARVESTFEST | Carol Mounce | Suzanne Seiler | Cara Bender |
| **Altar Flowers** | HARVESTFEST | Joanne Stewart<br>Family Birthday | --- | --- |
| **Altar Care** | HARVESTFEST | Carol Muller | Barbara Ritchie<br>Joy Vaughan | Cara Bender |
| **Transportation** | HARVESTFEST | Gary Herendeen<br>327-7021 | Susan Osterman<br>482-5537 | June Aaker 912-8391 |

***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

### Upcoming Gospel Readings:

- **October 04: Matthew 21:33-46**
- **October 11: Matthew 22:1-14**
- **October 18: Matthew 22:15-22**
- **October 25: John 8:31-36**