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

NOV. 2026 NEWS

A Letter From The Pastor

Dear Emanuel Family,

As the leaves fall and the days grow shorter, November invites us into a season of reflection, thanksgiving, and preparation. Before long we will gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving, and then almost immediately we will begin the blessed journey of Advent as we prepare once again to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

In the busyness that often accompanies this time of year, it is easy to become focused on schedules, travel plans, shopping lists, meal preparations, and holiday events. Yet God gently calls us to something even more important: preparing our hearts. The Apostle Paul writes: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV)

Notice that Paul does not tell us to give thanks only when life is easy. He encourages us to give thanks in all circumstances. Whether this year has been marked by joy or sorrow, success or struggle, blessings or burdens, we can be thankful because God remains faithful. His promises do not change. His mercy is new every morning. His love for you is steadfast and sure.
As we move toward Advent, I encourage each of us to ask a simple question: How is God preparing me to serve? The season ahead provides countless opportunities to share Christ's love. Our families, friends, coworkers, and neighbors need more than holiday cheer. They need the hope, forgiveness, and peace that are found in Jesus alone. Through the means of grace, God's Word and Sacraments, He continues to strengthen our faith and equip us for lives of service.

Take time this month to be intentional. Pray for the people God has placed in your life. Reach out to someone who may be lonely. Offer encouragement to a struggling friend. Share a meal. Write a note. Lend a hand. Listen with compassion. These simple acts often become powerful witnesses to God's love.

I would also like to challenge every member of our congregation to invite at least one person to worship during the coming season. Many people are searching for hope, purpose, and peace. An invitation may seem small, but God often uses simple invitations to open hearts to the Gospel. You never know how the Holy Spirit may work through a conversation, a welcome, or a seat beside you in the pew.

Most importantly, remember this: God loves you deeply. He is not distant from your daily struggles, your hopes, your fears, or your questions. Through Jesus Christ, He has claimed you as His own. He desires not only that you know about Him, but that you walk closely with Him each day, trusting His promises and resting in His grace.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and look forward to Advent, may our hearts be filled with gratitude, our hands ready for service, and our voices eager to share the good news of Christ.

May God bless you and your family throughout this season.

With a shepherd’s heart,
Pastor Heath

Council Highlights for October 2026

1. Meeting opened with prayer and the Prayer of St. Francis. September minutes approved.
2. Volunteers needed for monthly churchyard maintenance.
3. Proposed 2027 budget approved for presentation to the congregation.
4. Missions donation of $500 approved for Lodi Fire Department Foundation's life jacket program.
5. October 18 Town Hall focused on planning 2027 activities and events.
6. Men's Bible Study resumes in November with Pastor Heath.
7. Council approved reimbursement for property maintenance expenses.
8. Several Council positions are open for 2027, including Vice President, Secretary, and Fellowship.
9. Members reminded to use caution when leaving church after dark.
10. Parking lot repair estimates remain under review.
11. Council will meet with LCMC representatives October 31 to discuss upcoming church activities.
12. Holiday Boutique scheduled for November 7.
13. Financial assistance approved for travel related to the upcoming confirmation.

Designated Accounts		
Boutique	$	272.80
Choir Fund	$	836.18
Christmas Tea	$	2,233.63
Community Outreach	$	10,327.07
Contingency Account	$	15,000.00
Designated Gifting	$	31,599.75
Emanuel Cares	$	2,416.99
Facility Use	$	4,503.11
Fellowship	$	332.65
Fundraiser Dinners	$	2,649.33
Funeral Fund	$	1,896.16
Lodi House	$	418.00
Mission	$	100.00
Parking Lot Improvements	$	66,283.91
Portals of Prayer	$	55.00
Wedding Fund	$	75.00
Women's Ministry	$	774.43
Youth Ministry	$	21,057.43
Total Designated Accounts	**$**	**160,831.44**
Account		
General Bank Balance	$	26,141.61
Thrivent	$	104,440.44
Global Atlantic Financial	$	116,992.62
Vanguard	$	41,983.38
YTD Memorial Account	$	20,143.61
YTD Building Account	$	18,545.45
General Financials		
September Offerings	$	9,834.80
September Expenses	$	20,011.22
September Net	**$**	**(10,176.42)**
YTD General Offerings	$	146,328.31
YTD General Expenses	$	220,955.38
YTD Net	**$**	**(74,627.07)**

WHAT'S NEW

Holiday Boutique!

Saturday, November 7
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Join us for a wonderful day of shopping, delicious food, and fellowship at Emanuel's annual Holiday Boutique!

Browse handmade crafts, sewn and needlework creations, baked goods, and treasures from local vendors. Enjoy our deli and salad bar, and don't forget to enter the raffle for a chance to win some fantastic prizes!

Proceeds from this year's Boutique will directly benefit Lodi's LOEL Center.

Volunteers are still needed to help with preparations, food service, decorating, greeting guests, and more. Sign-up sheets are available at the Welcome Center, or contact Cara Bender at (209) 986-8864 to see how you can help.

Bring a friend, enjoy the fellowship, and get a head start on your holiday shopping while supporting a wonderful cause!

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

Help Us Share Christ's Love This Thanksgiving!

Emanuel is seeking volunteers to prepare and deliver turkey dinners to homebound members and others in need of a Thanksgiving meal.

Meal prep will take place Tues. 11/24, with refrigerated meals delivered Wed. 11/25. Monetary donations are also welcome to help cover food costs.

To volunteer, donate, or recommend someone who could benefit from a meal, please contact Andrea Brady.

Together, we can share God's blessings with those in need!

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

NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 **9:30AM** Worship Service **6PM** Youth Group	2 **9:30AM** Body & Soul Fitness (SH) **12PM** Bunco (SH)	3 **8:00AM** Men's Bible (FR) **Boutique Prep**	4 **12PM** Celebration Lunch at Strings **Boutique Prep**	5 **Boutique Prep** **3PM** Bible Study (FR)	6 **Boutique Prep**	7 **Holiday Boutique!** **9 AM - 2PM (SH)**
8 **9:30AM** Worship Service **6PM** Youth Group	9 **9:30AM** Body & Soul Fitness (SH) **12PM** Bunco (SH)	10 **8:00AM** Men's Bible (FR) **10:30AM and 1:30PM** Women's Bible (FR) **5PM** Council (FR)	11 **Veteran's Day** **Office closed**	12 **9:30AM** Sew&Sew's Women's Fellowship (SH) **3PM** Bible Study (FR)	13	14
15 **9:30AM** Worship Service **Congregational Meeting** **No Youth Group**	16 **9:30AM** Body & Soul Fitness (SH) **12PM** Bunco (SH)	17 **8:00AM** Men's Bible (FR) **10:30AM and 1:30PM** Women's Bible (FR)	18 **6PM** WOW Dinner (SH)	19 **9:30AM** Sew&Sew's Women's Fellowship (SH) **3PM** Bible Study (FR)	20	21 **8AM** Knights of the Spirit Breakfast
22 **9:30AM** Worship Service **6PM** Youth Group	23 **9:30AM** Body & Soul Fitness (SH) **12PM** Bunco (SH)	24 **8:00AM** Men's Bible **10:30AM and 1:30PM** Women's Bible (FR) **Turkey Meal Prep**	25 **Turkey Meal Delivery** **6PM** Thanksgiving eve service	26 GIVE THANKS	27	28 **10AM** Christmas Decorating Party
29 **9:30AM** Worship Service - First Sunday of Advent **NO Youth Group**	30 **9:30AM** Body & Soul Fitness (SH) **12PM** Bunco (SH)					

Celebrations

Birthdays:

Nov 1 – Terry Aman
Nov 1 – Cindy Capron
Nov 6 – Toni Miller
Nov 10 – Brenda Mayo
Nov 10 – Jeff Stoddard
Nov 11 – Hilda Schaefer
Nov 14 – Madeline Haugan
Nov 17 – Austin Miles
Nov 21 – Natalie Handel
Nov 24 – Joan Stephens
Nov 24 – Ruth Walth
Nov 25 – Delbert Bezug
Nov 27 – Gary Ochsner
Nov 27 – Barbara Ritchie
Nov 28 – Carson Kautz

Anniversaries:

Nov 2 – Jim and Kathy Quaschnick 52
Nov 20 – Phil and Tina Abba 44
Nov 29 – John and Gail Kautz 70
Nov 29 – Karen and Eric Sorensen 29

SAINTS IN SERVICE

November 2026

Role	Nov 1	Nov 8	Nov 15	Nov 22	Nov 29
Acolyte	Lynsey Shelley	Bella Sandoval	Breanna Berreth	Jocelyn Shelley	Austin Miles
Communion Assistant	Cara Bender	Stefany Sandoval	Denise Nieves	June Aaker	Kathy Linz
Greeter 1	Phil Abba	Jane King	Lisa Berreth	Carol Mounce	Susan Oesterman
Greeter 2	Tina Abba	Traudi King	Carol Mounce	Suzanne Seiler	Cindy Pitto
Lector	Jackie Sandoval	Cara Bender	Suzanne Seiler	Carol Muller	Linda Nye
Prayer Partner	Suzanne Seiler	Carol Mounce	Suzanne Seiler	Carol Muller	Cara Bender
Transportation	Steve Mayo 993-9151	Gary Herendeen 327-7021	Susan Oesterman 482-5537	June Aaker 912-8391	Steve Mayo 993-9151
Altar Care	Elsie Mounce	Gayle Peery & Carol Ritchie	Carol Muller	Barbara Ritchie & Joy Vaughan	Cara Bender
Altar Flowers	---	Delbert Bezug in memory of Darline	---	Thanksgiving Decor	Advent Decor

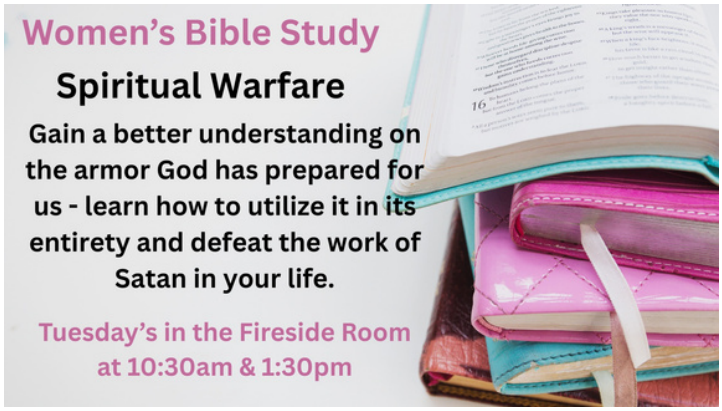
Need a ride? Contact the scheduled driver before Sunday.

Emanuel Holiday BOUTIQUE

Saturday, November 7
9am – 2pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Bake Shop, Deli, Cashiers, Raffle Basket Set-Up, Decorating and Greeters.

RAFFLE DONATIONS APPRECIATED!
Gift cards, new and functional items (please no garage sale items).
Due Tuesday, Oct. 27.

BAKED GOODS & DELI PREP
See the Baker's Guidelines at the Welcome Center. Help with baking and deli food prep.

SIGN UP & MORE INFO
Sign-up sheets are at the Welcome Center. Join us Thursdays at 9:30am in the Social Hall!