

EMANUEL CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2025 VOL. 3 ISSUE 1

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FROM THE PASTOR:

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me"
(Luke 9:23)

Have you ever wondered what went through the mind of Abraham when God told him, at 75 years old, to pack up his belongings and move to a new place? How was Esther feeling when she was asked to go to the king, uninvited under threat of death, to reveal the plot to kill all the Jews in the land? How about Peter and John, called away from their families to go off with an upstart religious leader to be "fishers of men?" Or Paul, a high-profile Jew, a Pharisee and bounty hunter for Christians, told by the Lord to take the Good News to pagans? And we all know how Jonah felt (and what happened) when God called him to go to Nineveh. They felt uncomfortable, afraid, and reluctant to follow what God had called them to.

Jesus calls us to be born again, to commit our lives to God, serve others through his church, and to go out and share what Jesus has done in your life . . . tell people about the love of Christ! And do this every single day. Answering his call on our lives will be difficult, uncomfortable, and challenging.

In living out our Christianity, Jesus was very direct, that we will be made uncomfortable for his name's sake. "But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33) and "am with you always" (Matthew 28:20) he assures us.

If you want to follow Jesus, we all need to grow in Christ, serve in Christ's name, share his love in action and words. Deny our own comfort, step up and step out—take up our cross daily and follow him.

Let 2025 be your year for re-birth, for re-commitment to Jesus!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE FROM DANI:

Women's Bible Study

Will meet again on January 8th. We will be studying 1/2 Timothy & Titus. Workbooks will be provided, bring your Bible. 1/2 Timothy and Titus might be called "the Teacher's Manual," because so much of what they contain is about the kind of teaching that Christian leaders should--and shouldn't--be giving. Just as Timothy and Titus needed help to lead their young churches well in the midst of powerful cultural forces, we need guidance for correct leading and living in our own context. Join us at 10a & 6p.

Men's Bible Study

Will meet again on January 8th at 6p. We will be wrapping up Joshua on 1/8 and heading into the book of James on 1/15. True faith produces fruit. A faith without action and without life change is ultimately a dead faith. The book of James speaks to the realities of a living faith in Jesus—the kind of roll-up-your-sleeves and get-your-hands-dirty discipleship that is borne out of an authentic relationship with the risen Lord. James writes to believers who know suffering, who've faced trials, and who ultimately desire a deep relationship with God.

Fun in the Son

Will meet again on January 8th at 3:30p and is open to kids ages kindergarten-5th grade. Join us for a Bible Lesson, snack, craft and game. We will be studying four heroes from the Bible: Abraham, Elijah, Ruth, and Jesus. Each week focuses on 4 qualities of the Biblical character that made them a "hero." Kids will learn how they can become a "hero" as they follow God.

Youth Group Winter Retreat

Our middle and high school youth group kids will be heading off to Fort Wilderness in Rhinelander January 24-26th. Please pray for the kids/leaders going and for God to move in their hearts. If your child is going, online risk form and \$50 payment must be completed by January 8th to secure your spot.

Pancake Fundraiser Thank You

Thank you to all who showed up on December 8th to support our youth group. We made \$850 and we are so grateful to each and every one of you and your continued support. This allows us to keep the prices down to make our winter retreat accessible for all.

Calendar Updates

Sunday School to start back up on:
January 5th

Fun in the Sun, Youth Group and Bible
Study to start back up on:
January 8th

YOUTH GROUP FROM MALLORY:

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe the holidays are behind us and we're officially kicking off 2025! The Christmas program was a huge success! All of our Sunday school kids were incredible and a big thank you to Dani for putting together another amazing show! We're all anxious to dive back into our regular Sunday School routine in this new year and to keep collecting offerings for the Hope House of South Central Wisconsin. Take a look at the Sunday school bulletin board to check on our progress from the fall!

FROM THE TREASURER:

Disaffiliation Loan Balance \$117,277

Please contact Greg Rufsvold via email at gsrufsvold@yahoo.com or via text or phone at 608-434-9203 if you have questions.

YOUTH GROUP FROM MICHELLE & JOSH:

Hello Emanuel Family! Youth group just finished a mini study of the reason for the season! It was a great reminder to all of us during the hustle and bustle of the month. Josh and I hosted our annual Christmas party at our house and had 30 kids come for games, tacos and a hilarious white elephant gift exchange! We are now setting our sights on Fort Wilderness at the end of January! Thank you so much for your love and support during our pancake breakfast! The kids raised \$850 to help fund their big camp weekend! We have the most amazing Emanuel family! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Youth Group Christmas Party 2024

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE "The Gospel of Jesus Christ"

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
5 th	Who Cares?	Romans 8:38-39
12 th	What Kind of Man?	Mark 15:6-15
19 th	Even Me!	John 3:16
26 th	Overcome?	John 16:33