

EMANUEL CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September 2026 VOL. 4 ISSUE 6

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FROM PASTOR RON

*The Sabbath was made for man,
not man for the Sabbath. (Mark 2:27)*

Throughout scripture, God's will for his people finds its foundation in relationship and family. God's design for relationship and family consists of both church and home.

Sabbath was always meant to be a time to rest, recreate, and reconnect in our relationships with God and with each other. Sabbath was never meant to be a day of the week, so structured as to lose its true meaning.

Each year as Emanuel approaches the summer season, calls go up declaring the church shouldn't "shut down" for the summer. We should not have two services but only one all year (like Summer) so people can see each other. That we lose touch with each other when all our activities stop.

First off, in Jesus' words, "Sabbath was made for man, not man for Sabbath." Is tubing on the lake behind the boat or down a lazy river Sabbath? Is teaching our kids to fish Sabbath? Is camping, hiking, cruising Sabbath? Yes! If it avails us to connect with God's creation and re-connect with our family. Recreation is "re-creation" of our relationships with God and family. Can't think of a better place or time to do that than summer in Wisconsin.

Second, the church does not "shut down" June through August. It goes into its Sabbath time. Slowing down yes, but also a time of fellowship and reconnection: mission, music, and ministry.

Lastly, Sabbath is always and definitely a time for us to be purposeful in connecting or reconnecting with God— all year long. The history of "the" church reveals its development and changes over 2000 years to reach people. Liturgy, ritual, music, preaching, lay involvement, even the sacraments have been adjusted to welcome and touch the hearts of those who need to know Jesus

Christ. So it is at Emanuel. Follow Jesus in the gospels and you will note that in every instance, he meets people where they are and then invites them into a relationship with God.

Emanuel continues to grow because our mission is "Connecting People to Jesus" and we are doing so as Jesus did and as Jesus taught.

FALL/WINTER SUNDAY SERVICES

Beginning Sunday, September 13th, we return to two Sunday worship services, 8a & 10:30a.

The same biblical and fulfilling message will be shared at both services, so you can choose the time that works best for you.

Two services. One message. One church family.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Sunday, September 20th

Emanuel's annual Charge Conference is scheduled for Sunday, September 20th, 2026. The Conference will be officiated by our Presiding Elder- Rev Harold Zimmick who is also the Pastor at Asbury GMC in Madison.

The Conference will follow the 10:30a worship service with a brunch and fellowship time. The business meeting will begin approximately at 12:30p. All are welcome to attend. However, those items requiring congregational votes are limited to Members of Emanuel Church of Baraboo.

COMING SOON!

Look for something new—and green—in the back lot!

We're transitioning to a dumpster for both garbage and recycling, which means no more separating!

We'll also have one garbage pickup day every other week, instead of weekly. The pickup day is TBD.

EMANUEL WOMEN

Collections for September and October

During September, Emanuel Women will be collecting feminine hygiene products to donate to Baraboo Middle & High School.

These essential products can be a costly need for young women. Your donations will help ensure that students have access to the supplies they need.

Donations will be taken until September 30th.

October will be Undie Sunday! The Emanuel Women will be collecting undergarments for the men and women of Pathway Home and Hope House.

Please see the flyers in the narthex for details on needed sizes and specific items.

No socks are needed for this collection.

Donations will be taken until October 31st. Collection boxes are located in the Narthex.

Your generosity and willingness to help those in our community are greatly appreciated! Thank you for helping the Emanuel Women make a positive difference through these collections.

EMANUEL'S COMMUNITY MEAL

About two plus years ago a small group of mission-minded folk felt called to help feed the members of the Baraboo community that may not always have a reliable source for a hot meal. From those dedicated people, our monthly Community Meal was born.

As with all ministries in the church, there comes a time when, for various reasons, new leadership is needed. Emanuel has been blessed this past year with the leadership of Pam Mittelsteadt as leader and coordinator of the Community Meal. She has done a marvelous job and has raised the nature and culture of the meal to a new, spiritual level. And it continues to grow!

Pam will be "retiring" from this role at the end of this year. This valuable ministry needs a new leader with vision and organizational skills to take the reins. We have many volunteers and contributions for the meal itself, but we need an individual or a couple who feel called and led to this valuable ministry and mission.

Please pray about this and reach out to Pam or the Pastor if you are interested or would like additional information.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FROM DANI

Beginning Wednesday, September 9th:

Proverbs – Women's Bible Study

First room on left | Led by April Bergman and Diane Schlender

Explore the wisdom of Proverbs and discover practical, God-centered guidance for everyday life. Together, we'll learn to recognize the voice of wisdom and choose a life that honors God.

10a & 6p on Wednesdays

Fun in the Son

Fellowship Hall | Led by Dani Lahti

Join us as we study the Book of Acts and discover what the church is, how it began, and how God calls us to worship, grow, serve, and share the gospel. Each week includes a Bible lesson, snack, game, and/or craft to help children connect with God's Word and learn what it means to be part of His church. We invite all kids kindergarten through 5th grade to join us!

3:30-4:30p on Wednesdays

Gospel of John – Men's Bible Study

Library | Led by Rick Osgood

Discover the hope and life found in Jesus through the Gospel of John. This study will help us return to the essential truths of our faith and deepen our trust in Christ, our one true hope.

6p on Wednesdays

Middle & High School Youth Group

Basement | Led by Josh and Michelle Bahe

A place to belong, have fun, and grow in faith! Students can build friendships, enjoy games and snacks, worship, dive into God's Word, ask questions, and discover what it means to follow Jesus in everyday life. Come as you are—and bring a friend!

Middle School: 6p-7p on Wednesdays
High School: 7:30p-9p on Wednesdays

Consistent Giving – Consistent Ministry

Fall Sunday Programming Begins!

Rally Day is Sunday, September 13th! Join us for the kickoff of a new Sunday School year with classes for everyone from 4K through adults, from 9:00a–10:15a.

Then stick around for worship at 10:30a followed by our Chili Cook-Off Potluck! Want to enter your favorite chili, sign up in the narthex. Not a chili cook? No problem—bring a dish to pass! Hot dogs and drinks will be provided.

4k through 6th grade

We will be starting unit 7 in “Answers in Genesis”. With a focus on apologetics, we will learn about how God faithfully leads and protects His people while judging rebellion. We plan to cover Numbers, Deuteronomy, and Joshua throughout the year.

Confirmation Sunday School Class

2nd/3rd Room (half) | Led by Ryan & Jessica Barker

A faith journey for our 7th & 8th grade students as they grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus, learn what it means to follow Him, and explore what it means to live out their faith as a Methodist.

High School Sunday School

Youth Group Room (half) | Led by Dave and Jodi Becraft

Dive deeper into God’s Word as we journey through the Gospel of Mark. Together, we’ll explore the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus while discovering what it means to follow Him in our everyday lives.

Book of Jude – Co-Ed Sunday School

Library | Led by Chad Holiday

How do we stay faithful to Jesus when faced with doubt, deception, and cultural pressures? Join us as we continue the study of Jude and we learn to stand firm in faith and trust the God who calls, loves, and keeps us.

Book of Joshua-Women's Sunday School

First room on left | Led by Pam Mittlesteadt

Journey through Joshua verse by verse and discover God’s faithfulness, His steadfast love, and what it means to stand courageously in faith while trusting in Jesus, our true and better Joshua.

Golden Year's Sunday School Class

Kitchen Island | Led by Bob & Carolyn Stearns

A welcoming class for retired adults to connect, grow in faith, and enjoy fellowship. The group will choose the study topic together at the first class. *Note, new location this year.*

Other Ways to Connect With Our Church Family

Caregiver Support Group

First room on left | 2nd Tuesday of the month
10a-11:30a

Caring for a loved one can be both rewarding and challenging. This group offers a safe, caring place for spouses, family members, and others walking alongside someone who is sick or in need of extra support. Come for encouragement, prayer, conversation, and a reminder that you don’t have to walk this journey alone.

Mom's Morning Out

Kitchen | 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month
9a-11a (except Nov., Dec., March & May)

Join us as we study *Grit, Don't Quit* by Bianca Juárez and discover how God can strengthen us to persevere through life’s challenges. Together, we’ll explore resilience, hope, and what it means to keep going when giving up feels easier. Come connect with other moms, enjoy encouragement and conversation, and grow in faith together. **Nursery care is provided-first meeting September 8th!**

Prayer Group

Library | Monday 5:15p-6:15p and Tuesday 10a-11a

Come together for a time of prayer, encouragement, and growing closer to God. Whether you’re new to prayer or have been praying for years, everyone is welcome.

Online Women's Bible Study

For women with busy and challenging schedules, this study is designed with you in mind. We follow a simple guide with daily readings you can do at your own pace throughout the week. Then, once a month, we gather together online for encouragement, discussion, and connection. No pressure—just grace, growth, and community wherever you are. Please contact KaLee Lane if you are interested in joining. Email: hendekal12@gmail.com or text 608-477-3104

Freedom From Food

Looking for support and encouragement on your journey? Overeaters Anonymous (OA) is a welcoming group that provides a safe, supportive place to share, listen, and find hope through fellowship. All are welcome, whether you are new to OA or have been attending for years. This group is not currently meeting, but we would love to connect you with Jenny Gramer at iljahnke@live.com or via text at 608-495-1052 for more information.

American Heritage Girls Registration Is Open!

Registration is now open for a new year of American Heritage Girls (Christian Girl Scouts). Girls ages 6–18 are invited to grow in faith, build friendships, develop leadership skills, and enjoy exciting activities and service opportunities hosted right here at Emanuel. Our first meeting is Sunday, September 13th from 1p-3:15p. We meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month except December and May. For more information, please contact Cassie Downing at hackercj20@gmail.com.

Women's Retreat: "Rooted in Christ" Saturday, October 17 | 9:00a–12:00n

Join us for a special morning of fellowship, encouragement, and reflection as we explore our identity in Christ. Our keynote speaker, Christie Kaderabek, will lead us in discovering who we are because of Christ and how that truth shapes the way we live.

Registration is \$15 and includes a light breakfast, coffee bar, and a special mirror activity that you'll create and take home as a reminder of the day

Come ready to connect, be encouraged, and remember who you are in Christ!

Register at www.emanuelchurch.net

Coffee Cup Donations Needed

The Women's Retreat Ministry is collecting gently used ceramic or glass coffee cups that you no longer need. These cups will be used for place settings at our women's retreats. If you have cups to donate, please place them on the kitchen counter at church by Sunday, October 4th. Thank you for helping us make our women's retreats special and welcoming!

UPCOMING WORSHIP

September will see Emanuel beginning a look at the Gospel according to Mark. Holy Communion will be at the 9a service on the 6th. On the 13th we go back to 2 services: 8a Traditional Music & 10:30a Praise Music.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
6 th	God Has a Purpose for You	Genesis excerpts Chap 37 & 41
13 th	Who is Mark?	Acts 12:5-12
20 th	Preparing the Way	Mark 1:1-8
27 th	Tested	Mark 1:9-13

FROM THE TREASURER – GREG RUFVOLD

Financial Information thru July 31, 2026

	2026 YTD	2025 YTD
Offerings	\$165,263	\$155,253
Expenses	<u>\$179,262</u>	<u>\$183,452</u>
Net Income(loss)	(\$ 13,999)	(\$28,199)

Emanuel Legacy Fund- Emanuel Church will be setting up a long-term permanent endowment fund as a way to support the ministries and mission of Emanuel Church today, tomorrow and for generations to come. Gifts placed in the endowment are never spent, they are invested wisely, and only a portion of the investment earnings is used each year to sustain and grow the church's ministries. We are targeting this fund to be operational by early January of 2027. If you are interested in joining the endowment committee, please contact Greg Rufsvold by phone or text at 608-434-9203. More information will be provided in the next few months.