EMANUEL CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

November 2026 VOL. 4 ISSUE 7

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FROM PASTOR RON

Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song
(Psalm 95:2)

In these tumultuous times, when American culture is being challenged at all levels, accusation and indictment seem to be the order of the day. Regretfully, we are seeing a focus on offensiveness at the expense of an attitude of thanksgiving.

As Christians, you do not have to be of any particular theological bent to see with your own eyes that God has blessed us and we should be thankful. The diverse beauty of our landscape. The freedom to worship God as we please. The freedom to live and pursue happiness. The bounty that has been provided for us as individuals and for our families. And the wherewithal to be a blessing for those whose lives have faced challenges.

Despite political propaganda, especially during an election year, we should be beholding to government for these blessings, the concept of being blessed by grace precedes all the political noise. As Christians, we celebrate what God has provided for us. The Thanksgiving holiday is not a political beach ball, but rather a symbol of gratitude to our God for what we have.

Psalm 95 predates America's first Thanksgiving by 3,000 years and is located in what is called "The 4th Book" of Psalms, which focuses on God's blessings on Moses and the nation of Israel through the Exodus— from slavery to freedom in God's Promised Land. It celebrates God's accommodation to the people and the land they would possess. Quite appropriate, don't you think?

This Thanksgiving*, praise God from whom all blessings flow . . .*

Pastor Ron

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FROM DANI

Hanging of the Greens: Sunday, November 22

Join us as we decorate the church for the Christmas season and fill our building with holiday cheer following the 10:30a service. All ages are welcome to lend a hand! Pizza & lemonade will be provided, so come enjoy some food, fellowship, and festive fun as we prepare our church for Christmas!

Sunday, December 13th at 10:30a

The Great Christmas Advent-ure Musical

Get ready for a Christmas adventure filled with mystery, unexpected twists, and the true meaning of Christmas! When a big Christmas snowstorm leaves a group of people trapped inside an abandoned escape room, they must find a way out! An intriguing Advent calendar holds secrets that may be the key to unlocking the door. As the mystery unfolds, we'll discover the greatest rescue story ever told—how Jesus came to save us when we couldn't save ourselves! Join us as Emanuel's PreK through 8th graders show you the real reason for the season!

Practice for grades 2nd - 8th grade will start on *Wednesday, November 4th from 3:45-4:45p.*

Props Needed for Musical

We need to borrow a couple of unique props for our musical. All items will need to be at church by Sunday, December 6th and can be taken home after the program on the 13th. Please let Dani know if you have something we can borrow. Here is what we are in need of:

- A wooden Advent Calendar (drawers must pull out to hide clues #22,23 & 24)
- A wardrobe (we have people to help move)
- A standing telescope

Youth Group Christmas Bake Sale

Sweet treats for a great cause! Stop by our bake sale on December 13th during the Christmas musical to support our youth group winter retreat to Fort Wilderness, January 22nd – 24th.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

November is an exciting month for worship. Sunday the 1st we will celebrate All Saints Day, Sunday the 8th we will honor our nation's veterans, and Sunday the 29th we will begin the season of Advent as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's coming.

Date	Sermon Title	Scripture
1st	Seeds of a Growing Kingdom	Mark 4:26-32
	All Saints Sunday	
8th	Let Your Light Shine II	Mark 4:1-25
	Communion Sunday	
	Veterans Honoring Sunday	
15th	Calming the Storms	Mark 4:35-41
	Adult Choir Sunday	
22nd	Redeemed & Restored	Mark 5:1-20
29th	Advent: When?	Mark 24:36-44

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE FROM MALLORY

Sunday school is off to a great start! The kids have been learning about the journey to the promised land.

This year our Sunday school offering will be going to the American Heritage Girls (AHG) troop that meets here at Emanuel. AHG is a program that is similar to Girl Scouts but with a focus on the girls' faith and their identity in Christ. The offering that is collected will specifically go towards a scholarship fund which makes American Heritage Girls a possibility for families in need of financial assistance. The AHG Oath states, "I promise to love God, cherish my family, honor my country, and serve in my community". Please help us to support this amazing program that instills these values into our young girls!

YOUTH GROUP FROM MICHELLE & JOSH

Happy Fall Emanuel Family!

Youth Group is off to a great start. We have so many new faces. The kids are wonderful at recruiting friends to come try us out. We are averaging about 20 kids for middle school and about 17-20 for High School. We have finished our first study called "Best Year Ever" where we learned about trusting God and his plan, building up a solid foundation for our walk in faith and living out our best Christian life. We have now started studying "Beatitudes". Our first week into that we talked about flipping the script and knowing that Jesus is teaching us a different way to live then culture does. We are looking forward to a great winter eason of studies, new friendships and plenty of fun!

FROM THE TREASURER – GREG RUFSVOLD

Financial Information thru September 30, 2026

	2026 YTD	2025 YTD
Offerings	$208,703	$196,623
Expenses	$228,258	$226,756
Net Income(loss)	($ 19,555)	($ 30,133)

Emanuel Legacy Fund-
Investing in Tomorrow's Ministry Today

At the October 13th, 2026, Board of Directors meeting the Board approved the establishment of an Emanuel Endowment(Legacy) Fund. Funds will be invested with the Methodist Foundation of Mississippi.

The Permanent Endowment Fund of Emanuel Church of Baraboo will exist to ensure that our ministry continues long after today's gifts have been spent. When you give to the endowment, your gift is never used up—it is invested permanently, and the earnings are used year after year to support the church's programs, missions, and facilities.

Our endowment will be managed with professional oversight and follows a carefully designed spending policy. This policy allows a reasonable portion of the earnings to be distributed annually while preserving and growing the principal for the future.

Through lifetime gifts or legacy gifts in your estate plan, you can help secure the financial future of our congregation and ensure that its ministries continue to thrive for generations.

Please mark your calendar to join Todd Marion, CFO of the Methodist Foundation of Mississippi, for an informational meeting on Sunday, January 10th, 2027. Todd will be at Emanuel and will be holding a learning session after the 8:00a service and will repeat the learning session after the 10:30a service. In the meantime, if you have general questions regarding the Permanent Endowment Fund—or how to begin giving or including the church in your will or trust—please contact Greg Rufsvold, Treasurer or Pastor Ron.

EMANUEL WOMEN

Operation Christmas Child is here! Stop by the information table in the narthex to pick up a shoebox. Return filled boxes and $10 shipping per box to Emanuel by Sunday, November 15th.