

Emmanuel Reformed Church

February 2021

202 East Morris Street, Morrison, IL 61270

Church office: 815-772-3890

www.emmanuelreformedchurch.org

Rev. Luke Schouten, Sr. Pastor

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pastorluke@emmanuelreformedchurch.org

Rich Criss, Ministry Coordinator

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Pam Muur, Secretary office@emmanuelreformedchurch.org

Deb Eissens, Bookkeeper bookkeeper@emmanuelreformedchurch.org

Lydia Ohlsen, Director of Children's Ministries

Jamie Rodriguez, Director of Sr. & Jr. High Ministries

Shelly Brackemyer & Lydia Ohlsen, Janitors

Mark Pruis, Custodian

Sunday Morning Worship Service in the Sanctuary:

Two In-Person Worship Services are offered on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am (masks recommended) & 10:00 am (masks mandatory).

The 8:30 am service is also Livestreamed.

Reservations will still be needed for either service: Please call or text the Emmanuel Reformed Church reservation line (815) 213-8715 and leave your **NAME, which service 8:30 or 10:00, how many attending and your contact number.** You will only be contacted if the service you choose is full.



Today I am grateful. I am grateful for all that God has done and all that God will do. As I am writing this I am reflecting on the events of this past Sunday. The day had an awesome time of worship and getting into God's Word. I have been so blessed since coming in the relationships already built, the encouragement, the prayers and the celebrations. With each passing day I am seeing new doors of opportunity to do ministry and mission and am excited about how the Holy Spirit will lead us in 2021.

I am grateful that we have now moved to a second service, are feeding more people on Wednesday nights and opening avenues to improve existing ministries and develop new ministries. I can't wait till we get this train really moving as we open our doors, get our choir back and in-house educational opportunities. I am also looking forward to developing our ministry teams and moving them to grow ministry as they are gifted in their particular area.

As we move forward I want to remind and encourage you to get involved. God has blessed each of you with incredible gifts and talents and there is no better way to find joy within our lives than to use them to serve to Lord. Find an area that works for you and get involved. If you have a passion for something don't be afraid to share it. It could be a ministry that God is desiring for this church to grab hold of.

I am also grateful for a super staff. I have enjoyed working with them and have laughed more in the last couple of months than I have in a long time. I thank God that we can work together as a team in such a way that we can accomplish ministry that will impact, but also ministry that is fun. It is hard to believe that we have only been at this for a couple of months.

As we move forward we will open new doors to ministry. Take advantage. There is more to church than just attending. It is the relationships and love expressed as together we do ministry. Working together in the kitchen, on a mission trip, helping with our youth programs or choir, are all ways in which community is built. Become a part of that community.

As we continue to this series on Loving your Neighbor I also want to challenge you to go the extra mile to get to know your neighbor. One of the things I have enjoyed about this series is almost every week I have someone sharing a story of how they have taken a small step to get to know their neighbor. I am reminded that God has called us to love our neighbor and simply get them to the feet of Jesus. It is there that Jesus will meet them where they are at and change their life.

I am also grateful for the generous giving that we have already received in 2021. As we move forward in ministry I am confident that God will bring blessing to what we do. We are committed to be good stewards of what you have given, and we will strive to use it in such a way that we build God's kingdom here on earth. I hope you are as excited as me as to the adventure and path God has laid out for us in 2021!

I love you, but God loves you even more! To God be the glory!!

Pastor Luke

From Our Ministry Coordinator...

February 1, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Here we are, smack dab into February! That being said, for many however, the month of February is the longest month in spite of the fact it is only 28 days long. The weather has been cold and snowy the past few days, the excitement of Christmas is no longer with us, darkness comes too early to enjoy being out of doors in the evening, and the cold winds of winter still blow. Even as I write this morning the temperature is hovering around zero, but at least the beautiful sun is out. The days are getting longer and that gives us hope that SPRING is on its way, but at this point the nights are still long!!

February is also the month for Valentine's Day. Yes, for those with a special someone, Valentine's Day is a great excuse for that special date or outing, even if that outing is different this year due to the pandemic. But, for many, this is day spent without the love of their lives and this day of "fun" has become a day of mourning. Mourning for those spouses who have gone on to glory, mourning marriages that have failed, mourning relationships gone sour. This can truly be one of the loneliest days of the year because people feel like they are no one's Valentine

Here's good news!! We are ALL God's "Valentine's!" We are all loved in the purest ways by One who never leaves us, never gives up on us, never throws His hands up and walks away from us! John 3:16 says "For God so LOVED the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life!" God's love reaches beyond boundaries humans make...God's love is forever! God loves us all! Because of this we have hope to carry us through these dark days of winter knowing that spring is on the horizon! This is good news!

We are all loved. Thanks be to God for his unending love! Happy Valentine's Day!



Rich~

Resthave Home Auxiliary

Please prayerfully consider supporting the Resthave Home Auxiliary's "Dues Drive" which is one of the main fundraisers for the Resthave Home Auxiliary. The auxiliary uses the funds raised to provide such things such as aquariums, handicapped doors, activity cart, a camera, two I-PADS and 3 laptops for use by the CNA's. Unfortunately, both of the auxiliary's major fund raisers, the Ice Cream Social and Holiday Bazaar had to be cancelled due to COVID so the need is great, this year especially. The past two years "Voices of Praise" has covered the "dues drive" for Emmanuel church by donating from their Christmas offering proceeds, but with having to cancel two cantatas this year due to the pandemic there is not funding available to do this for 2021. If you are willing to make a donation, please leave your check made out to Emmanuel Church with "RESTHAVE" in the memo. These checks can be left or mailed to the church office. If you wish to be a member of the auxiliary, please make sure your name is attached to the check. If you have any questions, please call Mary Hook, auxiliary board member and representative of Emmanuel Church at 815-499-4309.



Upcoming dates/events

- Sunday, Feb. 7 – **NO** Jr. High JAM/Sr. High YF
- Sunday, Feb. 14 – 4:00-5:30 p.m.-Jr. High JAM/6:30-8:00 p.m.-Sr. High YF
- Sunday, Feb. 21 – 4:00-5:30 p.m.-Jr. High JAM/6:30-8:00 p.m.-Sr. High YF
- Sunday, Feb. 28 – 4:00-5:30 p.m.-Jr. High JAM/6:30-8:00 p.m.-Sr. High YF

Please contact me with any questions @ 815-535-8630 or jamiearodriguez@hotmail.com

Jamie Rodriguez

Director of Jr. & Sr. High Ministries



**DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**

VIRTUAL Sunday School for Preschool through 3rd Grade: Hilary & I have pre-recorded singing & lessons on the **Emmanuel Little Folks Sunday School** Facebook group page for you to watch at your convenience each week.

Parents: If you had kids signed up to attend Camp Manitoqua last year and have an email on file, you should have received an email regarding camp this year. According to the email that I have received, they are still under mitigations from IDPH due to COVID-19 as to what they will be allowed to offer campers. To me it looks like only day camp will be available. The overnight Rez Camp is still up in the air. Parents, if you need any other additional information, I suggest you visit manitoqua.org/news I have a feeling that over-night camp will not be able to happen again this year. I will keep you posted an any additional information that comes to me. Please feel free to get in contact with me should you have any questions.

Lydia Ohlsen

Director of Children's Ministries

563-212-0325 lydiaohlsen@yahoo.com

PLEASE UPHOLD IN PRAYER ...

All who have yet to trust the Savior Jesus.

The persecuted church around the world.

The world, national & state leaders.

Those battling addictions in their lives.

Many families in our congregation who are suffering the loss of loved ones.

The families and marriages of our community and church.

The Missionaries our Emmanuel family supports: the Fields' serving in Columbia; the McCleerys serving in Latin America; the Pitchers serving in South Africa; the Smith-Mathers serving in South Sudan & the Sundararajans serving in Asia.

Those who are healing and recovering:

Ann Renkes, Corey Johnson and those recovering from COVID-19.

Those undergoing cancer treatments:

Deb Wikoff and Jonelle Hook

Those who have long-term needs:

Bob Atherton, Linda Damhoff and Jacob Green

Those who are confined to their homes or nursing homes:

Rollie Ebbers at his daughter's (Linda Snyder) home.

Betty Tegeler, George Temple & Lois Wiebenga at Resthave.

Norma Boeck at Windsor Manor.

Elwyn Nice at Allure of Prophetstown.

Our servicemen and women serving our country, including:

Jason Akker, Riley Coffey, Brad Eissens, Brevin Pruis and Lloyd Wicker



There has been a suggestion of having a puzzle exchange in our library. If you would be interested and/or have any puzzles to get it started, please contact me by e-mail, phone or text.

Connie Pruis, Librarian

815-441-4860 cjpruis@frontier.com



Men's Bible Study meets on Saturday mornings at 7:00 a.m. in the Christ Center. It is open to any man that would like to participate. Please contact Scott Findley @ 309-236-3832 for more information.

Car Show Meeting to be held on Monday, Feb. 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room

Anyone interested in helping with the Car Show this year, please join us! Emmanuel's 8th Annual Car Show will be held Saturday, August 28th from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Whiteside Co. Fair Grounds. Any questions, please see Lloyd DeShane.

Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference April 10th, Davenport, IA

Once a year we mobilize men to the local ISI men's conference. The Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference is coming again to Davenport and we will be taking as many men as we can to this unique event. This one-day conference is for men of all ages; beginning with age 13 and older. Cost is only \$55 per man and \$40 per student (ages 13-22). Price includes onsite lunch from Chick-fil-A. There will be sixteen different seminars for men at this conference, so we know there will be something for every one of us. Join us for a great day on Saturday, April 10th from 8:30 am-4:00 pm and let's be as iron sharpens iron to one another. Sign up in the Fireside Room today!





Magnifying Our Missions

February's Designated Benevolent Offering *One Eighty in Davenport, IA*

One Eighty exists to bring hope, love and opportunity to people and communities impacted by crisis, poverty, or addiction. One Eighty **prevents** crisis, poverty, and addiction before it happens, **reaches** out to those who are in crisis, poverty, and addiction and **develops** those who were in crisis, poverty, and addiction. We do this by helping people build a relationship with Jesus Christ and assisting local churches and organizations to connect with their communities.

Their **Develop Residential Program** offers a structured 14-month residential program for men and women who desire a radical life change. Individuals who are accepted into their program agree to the guidelines spelled out in their intake application and live in their Men's and Women's Homes. Below are some of the ways they develop residents:

- 25+ hours in work program/week
- 25+ hours of class time/week
- Partners with local probation and parole services
- Mentoring
- Accountability
- Family Atmosphere
- Faith Based

We ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this wonderful ministry with a second specifically marked offering in addition to your regular offering when it is **received on February 28th**.


Joining Together to Glorify God,

The Missions Committee

Martin & Becky Koster, Corey & Tammy Johnson, Tom & Amy Venhuizen, Russ & Holly Wallander and Pastor Luke

february

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Jim Landheer John & Karen Mouw	2 Hadley Vandermyde Ailey Wright Harold Zaagman	3 Connie Pruis Harold & Betty Zaagman	4 Brad Venhuizen
5 Jason McDearmon Nancy Tucker	6 Kollin Burn	7 Tim Ebbers	8 Sarah Schmidt
9 Cassandra Osborn	10	11 Andrea Folkers	12
13 Todd Schlegel Judah VanderMolen	14 Wayne & Marilyn Akker Terry & Sue Costello Lloyd & Pat DeShane Don & Bonnie Reed	15	16 Mason Muur
17 Devin Mouw	18 Austin Adams Russ Wallander	19	20
21 Carol (Kurt) Stralow Dan & Connie Heusinkveld	22 Nicole Reed	23	24 Sue Bush
25	26	27 Kenadi Buikema Dewey Mulnix Terry & Brenda Mayfield	28 Sue Costello
			



February's Drive-up Meals Menu:

5:30-6:00 p.m. in Emmanuel's parking lot – please enter thru the alley & proceed as directed

Wednesday, Feb. 3:

Turkey & Gravy over Biscuits, Peas, Dinner Roll
& Pumpkin Squares

Wednesday, Feb. 10:

Chicken Strips, Jan Sauce, Macaroni & Cheese
& Cherry Bars

Wednesday, Feb. 17:

Chicken Quesadilla, Green Beans, Sour Cream/Salsa
& Dessert

Wednesday, Feb. 24:

Ham & Hashbrown Casserole, Green Beans
& Chocolate Chip Cookies