



# The Emmanuel Envoy

August 2022

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## Looking Back and Looking Ahead

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*from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. Ephesians 4:16*

On May 31<sup>st</sup> the congregation shared words of scripture and blessings for Pastor Amanda as she set forth on her sabbatical. We also said words that we as a congregation would *"commit to using our gifts for the building up of this congregation and for the sharing of the good news of God with our neighbors near and far"*. And that is exactly what we've done over these past three months, and it hasn't been the work of one or two but the work of many, each doing their part.

The following is some of the things that have occurred:

- The big maple tree in our courtyard, as well as a few other trees on our property, were removed or were pruned.
- The yews that bordered the front stairs leading to the sanctuary were removed and their removal has opened the area to form what will become a meditation garden.
- The work on that garden is ongoing, at present it is mostly happening behind the scenes by several members of the congregation; soon there will be opportunities for others to assist in making this dream a reality.
- In June we had our first ever hybrid congregation meeting and while there are improvements to be had with that format the meeting went well and was well attended.
- We've done some clean-up and disposal of items within the building.
- We've heard sermons on God's word from different voices and we've continued to greet friends new and old at our worship services (both in-person and via Zoom).
- Different members of the congregation acted as host to our visiting pastors and others have written the opening paragraph for the weekly worship link email.
- Wednesday night prayer group was led by various lay members and welcomed new faces.
- Our eucharistic ministry that brings communion to those who are unable to come to the church continued and was coordinated by a member of the congregation.

- As of today, we've logged over 2100 miles (that's from here to Denver, CO) in support of Calumet's *Walk the Walk*.
- We cared for members of our community who were ill by prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits.
- And last, but far from least, the unending work in the office continued, supported by several members of our community.

In a few short weeks Pastor Amanda will return from her sabbatical, rested, recharged, and full of new ideas and new experiences to share with us. And we will be greeting her with our own new experiences and new thoughts. Things won't be quite the same here either as we'll be starting a revised worship schedule, new Sunday school schedule and hosting our first potluck breakfast in 3 ½ years! All of this happens on September 11<sup>th</sup>. But that is not the end of what will be coming as, among other things, we plan our Luciafest and we begin to think about and plan for 2023 and Emmanuel's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

There is much to look forward to but there is even more to be thankful for. I am thankful for this community. This community that works so well together and supports each other in so many varied ways. Thank you for all that you are and thank you for the work that each and every one of us does to lift up this community, this church, and these people.

Yours in Christ,

*Rebecca Sol*, Council President

## Prayer Concerns List

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Susan Tomasello	Lyndsay Boysen
Bill Rapp	Jon Pierce
Mary Stevens	Jean Croll
Debbie Mathis	Rebecca Sol
John Olson	Theresa Begg
Fred Klippert	Sam Richwine
Warren Bussow	Elvira Aipperspach
Ann-Marie Litcof	Lisa Gugliuzza
George Beaudoin	Leslie Daskam
Paul & Heather Crisafulli	Richard
Tony & Sheri Nikolassy	Karter Lopez
Jovanni Sanchez-Colon	Graham & Kim
Lynn Petrowski	Casey Walsh
Bianca Tardie	Virginia Fettig & family



## Thank You Notes

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Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

We are so grateful for your support at this difficult time. Thank you for cards, e-messages, and especially attendance at John's funeral service. These things mean so much.

In Christ,  
*Donna Sera,*  
*The Warners,*  
*The Jean-Pierres*



Dear Emmanuel,

Thank you so much for the Emmanuel Education Grant for the 2022-2023 school year. It will be incredibly helpful as I continue my studies in the fields of history and theater at Simmons University. I look forward to continuing my relationship with both Christ and the Church at my school's campus ministry and at Emmanuel when I am at home. Thank you again.

Sincerely,  
*Kaz Gebhardt (he/they)*



Dear Emmanuel,

Thank you for the educational grant! I sincerely appreciate the church's support for my education at Northeastern. I'm looking forward to beginning my third year of studies in the fall. Thank you again.

Best,  
*Audrey Lassen*



Thank you so much for your donation of \$200 worth of gift cards from Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Norwood, Mass. We are very grateful for your generosity!

Best regards,

*Jeff Kinney*  
Chief of Strategic Development  
Ascentria Care Alliance



Dear Emmanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you very much for generously awarding me the 2022 Educational Grant program award. The money will be very useful to me when buying textbooks and school supplies for this year.

Since I will be commuting from home this year, I will be sure to stay involved and connected at Emmanuel throughout my studies.

All the best,  
*Caroline Gebhardt*



Dear Emmanuel,

Thank you so much for the educational grant. I am grateful and blessed to be a part of a supportive church and community. I am excited to begin my college career in a few short months. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
*Grace Lassen*



## **Blessing of the New School Year**

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On Sunday, **September 4**, during the 9:30 a.m. Zoom service and the 11:15 a.m. in person service, we will offer a liturgy of blessing for students, teachers, administrators, and all those who work schools.

Students of any age are invited to bring (or have with them on Zoom) their backpacks or something else that represents the beginning of school to them. Teachers, professors, aides, principals, administrators, office staff, cooks and cafeteria servers, librarians, janitors, bus drivers, crossing guards, and anyone else whose work supports the education of our communities' young people are also invited to come and receive a blessing and affirmation of your vocation as you serve children and families in your daily work!

## **Fall Worship Services and Sunday Church School Rally Day**

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Sunday, **September 11<sup>th</sup>** will be a big day at Emmanuel.

- Pastor Amanda will resume leading worship.
- A **revised** service schedule:
  - ✝ **IN-PERSON** worship at 9 am
  - ✝ Sunday School at 10:15
  - ✝ **ZOOM** worship at 11:15
- Sunday School Teachers and Council Members will be installed.
- Sunday School for children will begin again.

Please attend these important events in the life of our congregation!

## **Welcome Back Potluck Breakfast!**

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On **September 11**, we will welcome our Sunday School students back with a potluck breakfast in Kask Hall at 10:15. We will gather after church, for some fellowship, prayers & to welcome the students back.



All are invited to attend the potluck. Please sign up to bring a dish or help with setup, clean up or service on Sunday the 11th!

If you have any questions please reach out to Rebecca Squire, ([rebecca.squire@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.squire@gmail.com)) or Janice McHugh ([buster718@msn.com](mailto:buster718@msn.com)). Please sign up with the Sign-up Genius links.

### **Setup/Serve/Cleanup**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4BAAA82FA2FE3-rally>

### **Food**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4BAAA82FA2FE3-sunday>

## **Norwood Day**

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Norwood Day is Saturday **September 10<sup>th</sup>** 10:30am - 3:00pm! Come and help at the Emmanuel booth. We will be handing out information about Emmanuel and have games for people to enjoy.

Below is the link to the sign-up sheet or you can contact Ann Frerichs ([afrerichs@ymail.com](mailto:afrerichs@ymail.com), 781-255-9033) to sign-up. Any time you can spare to help at the booth is appreciated.

[2022 Norwood Day Sign-Up](#)

## **Sunday School – Time Change**

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Going forward, Sunday School will start at **10:15 am** and end at **11:00 am**. However, on Sundays, when there is music or if other events are happening, the Sunday School time will be extended to 11:15 am. Families will be notified on a monthly basis of the time for each week.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at [buster718@msn.com](mailto:buster718@msn.com) or at 617-543-5406. *Janice McHugh*

## **Sunday School Teacher(s) Needed**

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At this time, our Sunday School is still in need of 1 to 2 teachers for the **3rd/4th Grade**. No teaching experience is required. The curriculum is easy to understand and lays out the lesson plan for each week. The schedule is flexible. If you are interested and/or have

any questions, please contact me at 617-543-5406 or by email at buster718@msn.com.  
*Janice McHugh*

## **LWR School Kit – Items**

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We are starting to collect items for the **Lutheran World Relief School Kits**. Children who receive these kits would not be able to attend school without them, so our yearly efforts are

truly a blessing to the recipients.

### **Items needed:**

**70 page notebooks** – 4 per kit -currently and frequently on sale at Staples for 35 cents each (limit 30)

**Crayons -16 or 24 pack** – currently on sale at Staples for 50 cents (limit 30)

The following items are available for a good price at Dollar Tree:

**Pencils (UNSHARPENED)** – 5 per kit

**Pens (NOT gel)** – 5 per kit

**Scissors** –blunt tip

**Ruler** – 30 centimeters

**Pencil sharpener**

**Eraser** – 2 ½ inch

**Backpacks** – we have about 90, but would welcome more. They must be at least 14"x17".

Emmanuel also has a wish list on Amazon. You can order these items (or equivalent) and have them sent directly to the church. If you wish to do this **PLEASE** wait until **AFTER** Labor Day to order – thank you.

[www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1KPJ1MF43CHOF/ref=nav\\_wishlist\\_lists\\_2](http://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1KPJ1MF43CHOF/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2)

If you have any questions, please contact Arlene Cegelis at [acegelis@norwoodlight.com](mailto:acegelis@norwoodlight.com) or 781-762-0360 (home phone)

## **Confirmation Classes**

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Confirmation classes for youth in 7th grade and older will begin on Wednesday, **September 28<sup>th</sup>** 6:00-7:30 p.m. Confirmation

classes meet most Wednesdays during the school year 6:00-7:30 p.m.

The first Confirmation class on **September 28<sup>th</sup>** will be an orientation session for first and second year Confirmation students and their parents. We will be meeting in person in the **Gathering Room**. If you would like to register your child for Confirmation, please fill out the registration form that is located on Emmanuel's website at:

<http://wip.emmanuelnorwood.org/education/confirmation-class/confirmation-class-registration-form/>

## **Rummage Sale**

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Please set aside the week of **October 23** for our fall rummage sale.

We will set up on Wednesday, October 26 and Thursday, October 27. The sale will be on Friday, October 28 and Saturday, October 29.

We need many hands to make the work easier. Please come and enjoy delicious food and good company.

More information will be forthcoming. This is a fun event with much laughter and food. We supply coffee, snacks and yummy lunches all four days. – *Arlene Cegelis*

## **Church Office Hours Resume**

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Beginning Wednesday, **September 7<sup>th</sup>**, Emmanuel's church office hours resume.

We are open Tuesday-Friday 9 am to 2pm.

*Alice*



## Big Thank you from Calumet!

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Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for your recent gift in the amount of \$1000, earmarked for camperships for underprivileged children to Calumet. This gift—together with all the gifts we receive from generous people like you—is what keeps Calumet strong and vibrant during days which can seem overwhelming and daunting.

This is a tough world when one looks at it through the eyes of a kid. Even for a kid from the most stable of homes with the most loving of families, the day-to-day engagement with the world around them can be filled with anxiety and concern. The news we read and watch tells us of the devastation in Ukraine, climate change worries, and unsafe places. Schools and neighborhoods should be places understood to be an oasis from violence, but too often it's the case that our kids are feeling sort of scared. What is there to do?

Calumet—however imperfect—is a place where kids are reminded who they are, and whose they are. With an eye on fun and uplifting moments, Calumet campers grow in friendship and increase their understanding of God's promise to be with us always. God is love. God is one who enters into our lives and helps us to see what is important. God points to nuggets of goodness in the minds of whatever mess there happens to be in front of our eyes. The Calumet campers—both the little ones at Resident Camp and the older ones in the Family Campground—breathe deeper and build up strength knowing that God is here.

Calumet is a place that points to relationships—each one's connection to God and our friendships with other campers. Those relationships have a lasting impact. Your support for Calumet helps to foster those affirming connections amongst people of all ages. Thank you ever so much for being generous. Calumet's ministry matters today more than ever.

Sincerely,

*Knute Ogren*  
Director of Development

*Thank you Everyone at  
Emmanuel! Your generosity  
matters so much!  
Boom Chicka boom!*

## **A Letter from the Finance Ministry Team**

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It's hard to believe Labor Day is nearly upon us. As summer winds down, your Finance Ministry Team would like to share a few updates with you.

Our year-to-date (YTD) giving always dips in the summer as members and friends take vacation. Our YTD giving is strong at 95% of pledged amounts through July, though the month of July dipped to 77%. As you return from summer vacations and start planning for fall activities, FMT would like to ask you to check on the status of your pledge/planned giving for the year. Third quarter statements will not be available until early October, but if you have any questions about your giving for the year, please contact Kendra Lassen, at [financialsecretary@emmanuelnorwood.org](mailto:financialsecretary@emmanuelnorwood.org).

It has been a very hot and dry summer as everyone knows, which makes it hard to believe that our YTD spend on fuel oil is already over budget and projected to end the year significantly over budget. With that in mind, we are proactively asking members and friends to consider an extra gift to help offset that cost. We have been fortunate to generate operating budget surpluses for the last few years, and those surpluses have been needed to help balance our budget in the following year. We hope to diminish the impact of the increase in fuel costs now.

As a reminder, you can fulfill your pledge and donate to Emmanuel at Sunday service, mailing gifts to the office, or online through Emmanuel's website. There is a dedicated giving button online for the current operating budget and we have established one specifically for giving towards fuel oil. You can also designate a gift by check, just make a notation on the memo line. Links are below:

**Link to give to Operating Budget:**

<https://onrealm.org/EmmanuelLuthera6070/give/OperatingBudget>

**Link to give to Fuel Expenses:**

<https://onrealm.org/EmmanuelLuthera6070/give/fuel>

We appreciate people doing all that they can do to help maintain the financial health of this congregation. Thank you for your continued financial support of Emmanuel!

On behalf of your Finance Ministry Team,

*Rich Lassen*