

Good News! April 2025

Welcoming. Witnessing. Worshiping... through Christ.

Emanuel United Church of Christ

Office Phone: 573-243-3323 ~ Email: office@euccjackson.org

Website: www.euccjackson.org

Pastor ~ Joshua W. Rau

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Emanuel United Church of Christ—304 E. Adams, Jackson, Missouri 63755 Founded in 1867—Incorporated as German Evangelical Emanuel Church in 1891

Church Leadership

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Sam Roethemeyer

Organist: Christy Shinn

Choir Director: Kelly Crawford

Administrative Assistant: Debra Hoffmann

Office Assistant: Alyssa Rau

Council President: Jimmy McCormack



Visitor Info



Ways to Give



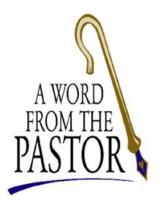
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Office Hours Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.





Dear Friends in Christ.

As we approach Holy Week, our hearts turn toward the greatest story ever told—the journey of Jesus to the cross and his victorious resurrection. This is a season of reflection, gratitude, and renewal as we walk the path that leads from the triumph of Palm Sunday to the sorrow of Good Friday and, ultimately, to the joy of Easter morning.

Holy Week is an invitation to slow down and immerse ourselves in the deep love of Christ. On Palm Sunday, we will begin our worship on the steps of the church, joining in the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with songs of "Hosanna!" On Maundy Thursday, we will gather around the table as Jesus shares His last meal with us, remembering His call to love and serve one another. This year, we will hold a new Good Friday Service in our chapel at Noon, where we will hear *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, reflecting on the depth of His sacrifice.

Then, Easter morning dawns. The stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty. Sin and death have been defeated! We will gather around the first fire of Easter for our SONrise Service at 6:30 AM, welcoming the resurrection in the quiet beauty of the morning. Later, we will rejoice together in Celebration Worship at 10:10 am, lifting our voices in praise of our risen Lord.

The resurrection of Jesus is not just an event of history—it is the foundation of our faith and the source of our eternal hope. Because He lives, we too can live in the power of His resurrection, walking in newness of life.

As we journey through this sacred time together, I encourage you to fully engage in these opportunities for worship. Let this be a season where we draw closer to Christ, renew our faith, and share the hope of the Gospel with those around us.

May the love of our risen Savior fill your heart with joy and peace.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Josh



COMPELLING PREACHING

We are excited to announce our participation in a groundbreaking, nationwide project in collaboration with Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

This initiative aims to enhance how we understand and experience sermons in our rapidly evolving world. Pastor Josh was invited to participate in this Compelling Preaching project.

In today's post-pandemic era, the landscape of faith and communication has shifted dramatically. We're asking the crucial question: What truly makes a sermon compelling and impactful in the 21st century?

This is where your voice becomes invaluable. We're reaching out to you, our congregation, to help shape the future of preaching. What resonates with you in a sermon? What transformative power do you seek in these messages? Your insights are at the heart of this innovative research.

Participating is simple yet powerful:

- 1. Each week, listen attentively to the sermon at Emanuel UCC.
- 2. Scan the QR code for a quick survey:



- 3. Click the link here: https://luthersem.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV 6Ay8FLFgziLBmfA
- 4. Share your honest thoughts and experiences.
- 5. Sign up for the follow-up survey.

Rest assured; this isn't about critiquing Pastor Josh. Your responses will be completely anonymous and will only be used by the research team to gain a broader understanding of sermon impact across diverse church settings.

By taking part, you're not just offering feedback – you're helping to shape the future of how God's word is shared and received in our changing world. This is an opportunity to deepen your own engagement with scripture while contributing to a larger spiritual conversation.

We urge you to seize this unique chance to make your voice heard. Your participation could spark a transformation in how we connect with and are moved by sermons for generations to come.

Join us in this exciting journey of discovery and spiritual growth. Together, let's explore the profound ways in which God's word can touch and change lives in our modern world.



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Upcoming Events

Tues.	Apr. 1	No Confirmation Class	
Wed.	Apr. 2	 Meditations from Emanuel Lenten Meal 5:30 pm Lenten Service 6:30 pm Choir after worship 	
Thurs.	Apr. 3	Bethany Circle 7 pm in Church Parlor	
Sun.	Apr. 6	Faith & Fellowship 9:00 amWorship 10:10 am	
Tues.	Apr. 8	Confirmation 7:00 pm	
Wed.	Apr. 9	 Meditations from Emanuel Lenten Meal 5:30 pm Lenten Service 6:30 pm 	
Sat.	Apr. 12	Clothing Closet 9-11 am	
Sun.	Apr. 13	 Church Council Meeting 8:00 am Faith & Fellowship 9:00 am Worship 10:10 am—Palm Sunday 	
Tues.	Apr. 15	Confirmation Class Trip	
Wed.	Apr. 16	Choir practice 6:00 pm	
Thurs.	Apr. 17	Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm in the sanctuary	
Fri.	Apr. 18	Good Friday Worship Service at Noon in the chapel	
Sun.	Apr. 20	 SONrise Service 6:30 am on church lawn Faith & Fellowship 9:00 am Worship 10:10 am—<i>Easter Sunday</i> 	
Tues.	Apr. 22	Confirmation 7 pm	
Thurs.	April 24	CBE Meeting 6 pm	
Sat.	Apr. 26	Fellowship Hall Reserved	
Sun.	Apr. 27	 Faith & Fellowship 9 am Worship 10:10 am Fish Fry in Fellowship Hall 11:15 am—2:00 pm 	
Tues.	Apr. 29	Confirmation 7:00 pm	
Wed.	Apr. 30	Fellowship Hall reserved—Women's Fellowship serving Jackson Noon Optimist Lunch	
		3-Wednesday 30—Pastor Josh will be attending a f Christ meeting at the national headquarters in Cleve-	

Weekly Use of Church Facilities		
Every Monday	TOPS 11am	
Every Tuesday	Guitar Lessons 1:30-6:30 pm	

Greeters--April

Apr. 6	Christy Bock Alyssa Rau
Apr. 13	Joy Kessler Dorothy Rowley
Apr. 20	Ann Fields Earlene Sokolowski
Apr. 27	Mark Statler Heather Beggs

Acolytes & Readers--April

	Acolytes	Reader
Apr. 6	Lincoln Lanie	Lincoln
Apr. 13	All Confirmands	
Apr. 20	All Confirm- ands	Kegan Lincoln
Apr. 27	Maklain Keagan	Maklain

Altar Flowers-April

Apr. 6	Cassi Holcomb
Apr. 13	Cassi Holcomb
Apr. 20	Easter Lilies
Apr. 27	Cassi Holcomb

| The due date for submissions for the May newsletter is April 27, 2025. Please send submissions to: | office@euccjackson.org or call 573.243.3323.



April Birthdays

3	Pat Abernathy
3	Roxie Davis
3	Chad Hankins
	Shirley McCormack
3	Geoff Shinn
4	Jeremy Loenneke
5	Earlene Sokolowski
7	Levin Hoffman
8	LaDonia Beggs
8	Rev. Sam Roethemeyer
10	Jeremiah Dunavan
10	
10	Jacob Scholl
11	Bill Kuecker
16	Mary Ann Heinsman
	Terry Jones
17	Marvin Peetz
19	Clara Beggs
21	Linda Drum
22	Kyndal Brothers
24	Mark Dambach
25	Asher James Dye
25	Sutton Ray Dye
26	Nancy Davis
27	
27	
30	Amy Langston
30	Erin Craig

April





3	Jerry & Brenda Wolfenkoehler, 54th
16	Edwin Jr. & Elsie Peetz, 59th
17	Jason & Heather Brown, 4th
28	Lance & Morgan Hoffman, 7th

Recommended Scripture

April

Apr. 6	Isaiah 43:16-21 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8
Apr. 13	Isaiah 50:4-9 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 23:1-49
Apr. 20	Acts 10:34-43 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 Luke 24:1-12
Apr. 27	Acts 5:27-32 Revelation1:4-8 John 20:19-31

thank you

Thanks for all the cards, texts, and phone calls before and after my surgery. I never felt alone. You are an incredible group of people. I am so blessed and so grateful.

Louise St John

We Keep in Prayer

Mary Lou Abernathy, Pat Abernathy, LaDonia Beggs, June Borgfield, Betty Hoffmeister, Alice Koeppel, Robert Loos, Marvin Peetz, Helen Poston, Alice Quigley

























Registration Now Open

May 2-4
Conference Women's Retreat

More info can be found on the Camp Moval Facebook page For more information about camps: https://missourimidsouth.org/camp-moval

Questions: Contact Katie Beardslee

Stewardship Corner

Stewardship is a theological belief that humans are responsible for the world, humanity, and the gifts and resources that have been entrusted to us. Believers in stewardship are usually people who believe in one God who created the universe and all that is within it, also believing that they must take care of creation and look after it.

In Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions, stewardship refers to the way time, talents, material possessions, or wealth are used or given for the service of God. Christian Stewardship often emphasizes that everything we have is a gift from God, and we should use it for His glory and the betterment of His creation. God wishes human beings to be his collaborators in the work of creation, redemption and sanctification.

Stewardship can be very complex or as simple as a smile. Stewardship should be a daily part of our lives. Maintaining a positive attitude and caring for your fellow man.

Let's all make a commitment to be good stewards everyday and caring for each other. Remember "He ain't heavy he's my brother".

Thank you to each of you for who you are and what you do.

The Stewardship Committee Louise St. John, President

Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who attended the auction, bought things, helped set up and take down. Thanks to everyone who donated baskets, baked goods, home made items, and plants.

A big thanks to our auctioneer, Bailey Beggs. He did a great job and made it fun. Thanks to everyone who prepared the food and helped serve. We made \$2688.25. Can't wait to do it again next year.

The Stewardship Committee

Welcome



We are excited to introduce and warmly welcome Alyssa Rau as our new Church Office Assistant! She joins our team with a heart for ministry and a passion for serving God's people.

Alyssa will be assisting with the day-to-day operations of our church office, helping to ensure smooth communication, organization, and support for our ministries. We are grateful for her willingness to serve and look forward to seeing how God will use her to bless our church family.

Thank You

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for Cathy's dedicated service as the Church Office Assistant from June 2021 through March 2025. Her commitment, efficiency, and warm presence have greatly contributed to the smooth functioning of our church office and the well-being of our faith family.

We wish her all the best in her retirement. She will still be an active part of our church family as she continues to sing in the choir, serve as secretary of Bethany Circle, participate in Women's Fellowship events and serve on the Stewardship Committee. May her retirement be filled with joy, relaxation, and the pursuit of her passions.

Cathy—Thank you once again for everything you have done for our church. We will miss having you in the office and are grateful that you have agreed to fill in if needed.

Women's Ministries



Bethany Circle

The meeting on March 6, 2025 opened with President Debra's Welcome and sharing joys and concerns and prayer.

Earlene Sokolowski offered the devotion "Spring Clean your mind" followed by a reading "I Hope You Dance".

The business meeting was called to order by President Debra Hoffmann. Roll call was shared by 8 members who recalled what comes to mind on St. Patrick's Day.

Minutes were read and approved from the February meeting.

Treasurer Dorothy Rowley reported a balance of \$449.71 at the end of February. Report will be filed for audit.

Business:

- Bethany provided 3 baskets for the church auction. All sold well.
- Bethany Secret Pals have been set for 2025.
- Debra reminded members of World Day of Prayer to be held March 7 at Pleasant Hill church.
 Registration to being at 12:30 pm followed by the service at 1 pm.
- Debra reminded members of the Mid-Week Lenten services to begin each Wednesday at 6:30 pm. A light meal will be served at 5:30 pm each Wednesday evening. Bethany Circle will be in charge of the March 19 meal. Members voted to serve sloppy joes, chips, veggie tray and dessert.
- Reminder of Feed My Starving Children event to be held Friday and Saturday-March 7-8.

The meeting adjourned with the Mizpah. Refreshments were served by hostess Joy Kessler during the fellowship time.

The next meeting will be April 3 at 7 p.m. Alyssa Rau will be providing the devotion/program and Lisa Dambach will be serving as hostess.

Respectfully submitted.

Secretary, Cathy Sievers



Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship met after worship on Sunday, February 9. Next meeting will be in May 2025.

Clothing Closet Update

- Cleanup Day was held March 1. Thanks to all those who helped.
- Painting—Thanks to the confirmands for helping with this project.
- New Blinds have been installed.
- New shelving and hanging racks have been installed.
- Clothing is being sorted and organized in preparation for reopening of the Clothing Closet.

All of these updates have made a big difference in the look and functionality of the Clothing Closet. The interior is brighter, there is more room to move around, and clothes can be displayed in a more organized and efficient manner.

Thanks to everyone who worked (and continue to work) to make these improvements possible. Your efforts are very much appreciated.







Christian Board of Education (CBE) Meeting Minutes - March 23, 2025

Christian Board of Education Update

The Christian Board of Education met in person following worship on Sunday, March 23, 2025. Members in attendance included Morgan Hoffman (President), Marcie Brown (Treasurer), Karrie Zschille (Librarian), Amber McCormack (Vice President), Heather Beggs (Event Coordinator), Pastor Joshua Rau, Erica Cooper (Secretary), and Katie Beardslee (Council Liaison).

Follow-Up

Sunday School Online Giving

Heather will make an announcement about online giving for Sunday School during the next Sunday service she attends. Erica will write the announcement, and Heather will deliver it.

Monthly Report on Online Giving

Marcie will reach out to Pat Holley to get a report on online giving for Sunday School.

Auction Basket Update

Our basket for the church auction sold for close to \$150—thank you to everyone who contributed!

New Business

Lenten Service Meal – Wednesday, March 26

CBE will provide a meal of soups and sandwiches before the Lenten Service on March 26. The meal will be served at 5:30 pm, with the service following at 6:30 pm.

Easter Sunday School – April 20

Plans for Easter Sunday School are underway:

- **Breakfast** Breakfast will be served at the beginning of Sunday School (9 am). Heather will lead the effort and coordinate leftovers from the Easter brunch.
- Bingo Erica will lead Bingo and prepare Bingo cards and slides. Matt will set up the projector.
 - * Prizes will be chocolate and treats in Easter eggs, along with other small items from the conference room and hallway closet.
 - Karrie provided cut paper to use as Bingo chips.
- Cross for Flowers The cross will be set up in the Fellowship Hall for attendees to add flowers.

Easter Outreach to Nursing Homes

The Board discussed giving plants and flowers to nursing homes but decided instead to create cards for residents to color and decorate. Erica will create the color sheets/cards.

- Cards will be colored during Sunday School on Sunday, April 13.
- Cards will be delivered to Monticello Nursing Home and Jackson Manor by Marcie and Lanie, with Heather, Morgan, and Clara offering to help.
- Delivery is scheduled for **Friday, April 18** at 10:00 am.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

The Board is considering holding VBS as a community family night series instead of a traditional weeklong format, to make it accessible to all ages. Current plans include:

June (June 25, 6:30–9:00 pm) – Outdoor movie night

July (July 19, 2:00-4:00 pm) - "Fun in the Son" event with water play, carnival games, and sweet, cold treats

August (August 3) – Sunday School Picnic following worship, with a tie into or promotion of the Back-to-School Prayer Service and school supply drive of Women's Fellowship

Sunday School Trip

The Board discussed the possibility of a trip to Noah's Ark in Kentucky but tabled the discussion for a future meeting.

Next Meeting

The next Christian Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24 at 6:00 pm.

For questions or to assist with any of these initiatives, please reach out to a CBE member. Thank you for your continued support of Christian education at our church!

Church Council Minutes

Below are the unapproved minutes from the March 9, 2025 Church Council Meeting. Minutes will be approved at the next council meeting.

EUCC Council Meeting 3/9/25

Meeting Members: Kelly Crawford, Geoff Shinn, Katie Beardslee, Pat Holley, Christy Bock, Jimmy McCormack, Layton Beggs, Matt Zschille and Pastor Joshua Rau.

Members absent: Matt Roethemever

Previous minutes were available for review. Motion for approval of previous minutes made by Kelly and seconded by Matt Z. Council approved.

Treasurer and Financial reports given by Pat Holley. Will file for audit.

- 1. Pastor's housing allowance investment vehicle was tabled until Pastor Josh and Pat Holley have more conversations.
- 2. Discussed taking the accumulated interest out of the Seabaugh Fund because it is unrestricted and move it to the unrestricted Seabaugh checking account.
- 3. New process has been implemented for anytime we sell items for a fundraiser. A large envelope with a list of the amount, who the money is from and whether it is cash or a check to help with bookkeeping.

Report of Committees

<u>Buildings and grounds report</u>: Parsonage ceiling repair has been completed for \$645 and looks nice.

<u>Audit committee report</u>: None

Rental property: None

<u>Clothing Closet:</u> Cleanup day went well. The confirmation class has painted the walls. Maybe a few touch ups might be necessary. Another time will be scheduled to install the new shelving, wash off the algae from the north side, and fix the toilet and kitchen sink.

Stewardship Committee: The auction brought in \$2677.

<u>CBE report</u>: Camp Sunday will be promoted during the Children's message the last 4 Sundays of March.

<u>Lay Service/ Member Care report</u>: All is well

Worship report: All is well Head Usher report: All is well

<u>Pastor Report with notes from Pastor Joshua Rau</u> The new streaming software is working well. Organ cleaning starts tomorrow 3/10 so the 3/12 Lenten service will be moved to the Chapel.

Old Business

The Congregational Meeting was February 23, 2025. Layton made a motion to approve the minutes. Kelly second. Motion passed.

Cathy Sievers is retiring as office assistant. She will continue until a replacement is hired. The Council decided to accept applications until March 9 to give others notification and a chance to apply. One applicant has applied so far - Alyssa Rau. Interviews will be conducted on Thursday, 3/13/25 by PSRC and with Pastor Josh only as a bystander if Alyssa is the only applicant. The intended start date for the hiree is 3/17/25. Cathy Sievers will help train the hiree for a few weeks.

Feed My Starving Children was March 7-8, 2025—23 members signed up to help pack.

New Business

Lent Services 5:30 meal 6:30 service

Camp Sunday promotion - See CBE report

There was discussion about possibly upgrading to a larger dumpster because it is usually full by

Thursday after Wednesday's pickup. Council wondered if other businesses are using it or if the public is using it. Josh will have Debra follow up with the businesses first. If not, then we may consider locking it.

Kelly brought up the question if Congregational Meetings should be streamed. Do the online watchers add to the quorum? Can online viewers vote or ask questions during the meeting. All questions should have to be addressed in the bylaws and a protocol established if another platform is used such as Zoom. Tabled for further research and discussion.

Next meeting: April 13, 2025 (Palm Sunday)

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 with motion by Layton, seconded by Kelly with the Lord's prayer led by Jimmy.

Submitted by: Geoff Shinn, Church Council Secretary

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Pat Holley, Treasurer

2025 BUDGET			
Annual Budget	Budgeted Contributions Monthly Average	2025 YTD Annual Budget thru Feb '25 (1 Mo)	
\$235,086.00	\$19,590.50	\$39,181.00	
	Feb '25 MTD Contributions	Feb '25 YTD Contributions	
	\$12,166.22	\$20,585.18	
	2025 Feb Excess (Shortfall)	Projected 2025 Annual Budget Shortfall based on Feb '25 con- tributions	
	-\$7,424.28	(\$89,091.36)	

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL OFFERINGS & DEDICATED FUNDS			
	Contributions in Feb '25	Contributions YTD 2025	
UC Funds	\$50.17	\$400.34	
Dime-A-Day	\$150.17	\$423.17	
CWS Blankets	\$370.00	\$370.00	
California Disaster Relief	\$0.00	\$595.00	
FMSC	\$810.14	\$810.14	
Food Pantry	\$105.00	\$180.00	