



December, 2025

<u>EmausELCA Staff & Worship Time</u>	
Pastor: Anglo - Rev. Marcy Wieties	262-880-1122 wieties@sbcglobal.net
Pastor: Hispanic – Miguel Perez	786-915-2678 vacambu@gmail.com
Outreach Director: Carol Beltran	414-208-9083 cyust@aol.com
Secretary:	
Church Office: 262-634-5515	E-mail: emausELCA@gmail.com
Website: emauselca1.org	
English-spoken worship services are held at Emaus every Saturday afternoon at 3:30 and Sunday mornings at 8:30.	
Spanish-spoken worship services are held at Emaus every Sunday morning at 10:00	
Emaus office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.	

Happy Holidays December Calendar

Sunday Worship (English)	8:30 am
(First Sunday - Breakfast)	
Sunday Worship (Spanish)	10:00 am
Coffee and Conversation Sundays, Sunset Room	9:30 am

November 29	Decorating for Christmas	9:30 am
November 30	Scrip Due	
December 3	Stitchers	10:00 am
	Bible Study	1:00 pm
4	Community Meals	
7	Breakfast	10:00 am
	Scrip Due	
10	Stitchers	10:00 am
	Book Group	1:00 pm
14	Scrip Due	
17	Stitchers	10:00 am
21	Scrip Due	
	AED Informational Meeting	9:30 am
24	Christmas Eve Service	4:30 pm
25	Christmas Day	
31	New Years Eve	

Help Us Deck The Halls!

Everyone is invited to help decorate the church into a festive, prayerful space for the holiday season. Join us on Saturday, November 29, at 9:30 am.

Giving Tree

A Giving Tree is now in the narthex. This is an opportunity to help purchase books and games for Christmas gifts which will be given to the students in the EASY program. You can remove a paper ornament from the tree with a suggested monetary amount. Your gift can be placed in the offering plate or turned in to the church office.

Poinsettias

Forms are now available to order poinsettias for Christmas. The cost is \$11.00. The plants will be in gold foil pots and will be used to decorate the church during the Christmas season after which they may be taken home. There is an opportunity on the form to purchase your poinsettia in honor or memory of someone special.

Community Meals

Thursday, December 4th, is Emaus' turn to provide food for the Community Meals Program at St. Patrick's Church. Our menu is our famous Tater Tot Casserole, salads and desserts. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Your food can be dropped off at Emaus in the upstairs kitchen before noon on Thursday, and it will be delivered.

Book Group

The next Book Group gathering will be held on Wednesday, December 10, at 1:00 PM. Book suggestions for 2026 should be shared with Claranna (cgvt@wi.rr.com) as soon as possible so we can build a meaningful and engaging reading list together.

Scrip Update

Gift cards from the Scrip fund-raising program are great to use for holiday presents. Orders will be taken on the following Sundays: 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, and 12/21. Please note that although requests for cards will be taken December 21, there is no guarantee that the order would arrive in time for Christmas, so it would be best to order your Christmas gift cards by December 14. Please have your orders to Cathy Meyer (262-498-4931) by 9:00 p.m. on Sunday each week that Scrip is ordered. Thank you for your continuing support of this program.

AED Information Opportunity

A new unlocked cabinet has been installed to house both the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) Narcan, and the first aid and blood pressure equipment. It is located on the wall outside of the offices.

Cathy Knuteson and Carol Eschmann will present a short video to explain the use of the AED on December 21 during the coffee hour. We will also discuss the use of Narcan which is found in the emergency cabinet located in the hallway near the offices. Any questions may be directed to Cathy K. or Carol E.

Posadas To Be Celebrated At Emaus

The celebration of the Posadas is an important Mexican Christmas tradition and features prominently in holiday festivities in Mexico (and more and more north of the border as well). These community celebrations take place on each of the nine nights leading up to Christmas, from December 16 to 24th.

The word *posada* means "inn" or "shelter" in Spanish. In this tradition, the Bible story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and their search for a place to stay is re-enacted. The tradition also involves a special song, as well as a variety of Mexican Christmas carols, breaking piñatas, and celebration.

Posadas are held in neighborhoods across Mexico and are also becoming popular in the United States. The celebration begins with a procession in which the participants hold candles and sing Christmas carols. Sometimes there will be individuals who play the parts of Mary and Joseph who lead the way, or images representing them are carried. The procession will make its way to a particular home (a different one each night), where a special song (*La Canción Para Pedir Posada*) is sung.

Asking for Shelter

There are two parts to the traditional posada song. Those outside the house sing the role of Joseph asking for shelter and the family inside responds, singing the part of the innkeeper saying that there is no room. The song switches back and forth a few times until finally, the innkeeper agrees to let them in. The hosts open the door, and everyone goes inside.

Celebration

Once inside the house, there is a celebration which can vary from a big fancy party or a casual neighborhood to a small get-together among friends. Often the festivities begin with a short religious service which includes a Bible reading and prayer.

On each of the nine nights, a different quality will be meditated upon: humility, strength, detachment, charity, trust, justice, purity, joy, and generosity. After the religious service, the hosts distribute food to their guests, often tamales and a hot drink such as *ponche* or *atole*. Then the guests break piñatas, and the children are given candy.

The nine nights of posadas leading up to Christmas are said to represent the nine months that Jesus spent in Mary's womb, or alternatively, to represent nine days journey that it took Mary and Joseph to get from Nazareth (where they lived) to Bethlehem (where Jesus was born).

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe, in [Roman Catholicism](#), the [Virgin Mary](#) in her appearance before [St. Juan Diego](#) in four visions in 1531. The name also refers to the [Marian apparition](#) itself. Our Lady of Guadalupe holds a special place in the religious life of [Mexico](#) and is one of the most popular religious devotions. Her image, of a woman of mixed [Indigenous](#) and European features ([mestiza](#)) wearing a [turquoise-colored mantle](#) surrounded by a sunburst, has played an important role as a national symbol of Mexico.

Appearances to St. Juan Diego

According to tradition, Mary appeared to Juan Diego, who was an [Aztec](#) convert to [Christianity](#), on four occasions between December 9 and December 12, 1531. During her first apparition she requested that a shrine to her be built on the spot where she appeared, Tepeyac Hill (now in a suburb of [Mexico City](#)). However, the local [bishop](#) hesitated to act on this request. Mary appeared to Juan Diego a second time on December 9 after his meeting that day with the bishop and told him to return and try again.

On December 10 Juan Diego met with the bishop, who this time demanded a sign before he would approve construction of a church. Mary then appeared a third time to Juan Diego, who told her of the bishop's demand for a sign.

On December 12, she made her fourth appearance, ordering Juan Diego to collect [roses](#) from the hill and bring them to the bishop. Miraculously, there were roses blooming on the hill, despite it being winter. Moreover, the roses were native to [Castile](#), a region in [Spain](#) that was the homeland of the bishop. In his audience with the bishop on that day, Juan Diego opened his *tilma* (cloak), letting dozens of roses fall to the floor and revealing the image of Mary [imprinted](#) on the inside of the cloak—the image that is now venerated in the [Basilica of Guadalupe](#). Mary is also said to have appeared to Juan Diego's dying uncle, Juan Bernardino, and restored him to health.

NOVENA A LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE



All Saints Sunday

On All Saints Sunday, November 2nd, was a day of remembrance for loved ones who have passed away with a lovely bouquet placed in front of the altar where pictures of loved ones were displayed.

The two candles on the table were lit in memory of Jim Brown and Willie Maryland both of whom passed away during 2025.

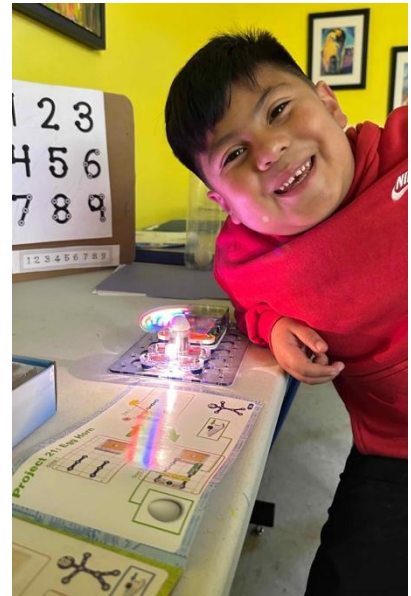


From The Archives

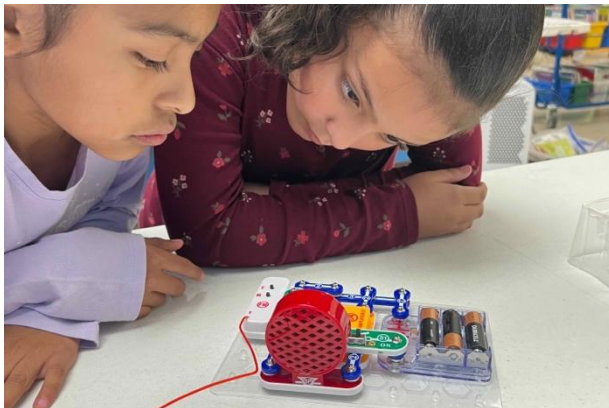


This is a picture of the Emmaus Choir taken in 1971. Cheryl Dexter and her father, LeRoy Andersen, were both members of the choir.

EASY Highlights

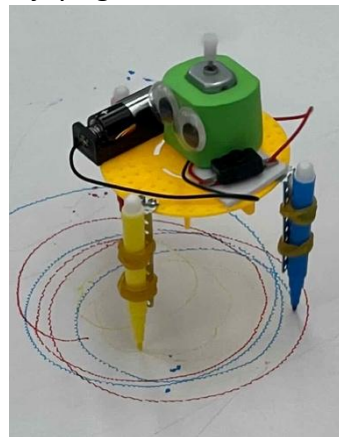


Thanks to Barb and Glen Staton, EASY



taking great joy in using them!

was awarded a Thrivent grant which was used to purchase several hands on STEM kits. The kids are enjoying them – in fact





Concentration: You could hear a pin drop as the kids attempted to balance 7 nuts on the edge of a cup. Happy to say all managed to accomplish this feat in due time. Expressions of accomplishment were fun to watch!

Another challenge: Using pencils to stack cups without having them slip.



How tall a tower can you build before it collapses?



How strong is a raw egg? The kids were given a tray that each contained the same items they could use to cushion their egg so that it wouldn't break when dropped from a ladder. A lot of creative ways were attempted. Some were successful – some?



Oh No! It broke!



Pictures tell the story. Using spoons, pinecones, tree branch



slices, and Plus-Plus Blocks the kids creations all say it's turkey time!



Treasurer's Report

Last month our estimate was that we would end the year with a budget surplus of \$3K. This month it looks like we might end the year with a \$3K deficit. At this point in the year, we projected that we would have a \$4.9K deficit, but we have only a \$2.5K deficit. This is a normal pattern with our budget report. However, this report is 10 months into our fiscal year so it is a good indicator of where we will likely end the year. The good news is that the offerings continue to be greater than what we anticipated in the budget.

El mes pasado estimamos que terminaríamos el año con un superávit presupuestario de 3.000 dólares. Este mes parece que podríamos terminar el año con un déficit de 3.000 dólares. En este momento del año, proyectamos que tendríamos un déficit de 4.900 dólares, pero solo tenemos un déficit de 2.500 dólares. Este es un patrón normal en nuestro informe presupuestario. Sin embargo, este informe está a 10 meses de nuestro año fiscal, por lo que es un buen indicador de dónde probablemente terminaremos el año. La buena noticia es que la oferta sigue siendo mayor de lo que anticipábamos en el presupuesto.

EMAUS ELCA MONTHLY CHURCH BUDGET WORKSHEET CASH BASIS (No Program Income or Expenses) October 31, 2025				
	(1) 2025 BUDGET	(4) 2025 CUM. BUDGET October (10 months)	(5) 2025 Actual October (10 months)	(7) 2025 PROJECTED YEAR
<u>SUPPORT/Apoyo</u>				
Offerings/Ofertas	133,257	111,159	120,986	143,083
Building Use/Usó en edificios	5,400	4,800	2,720	3,320
Designated Gifts/Regalos designados	22,306	18,086	17,085	21,306
Undesignated Memorials/Monumentos conmemorativos no designados	1,500	1,250	51	301
Forward in Faith Fund/Fondo Adelante en la Fe	600	500	0	100
Donations for Outreach/Donaciones para Divulgación	0	0	0	0
Fund Raisers/Recaudadores de fondos	16,511	13,567	13,552	16,496
Partnerships/Asociaciones	2,000	1,667	2,336	2,669
Neighborhood Camp/Campamento de Barrio	0	0	0	0
Foundation Grants/Subvenciones de la Fundación	0	0	0	0
Church Related Grants/Subvenciones relacionadas con la Iglesia	0	0	2,000	2,000
TOTAL SUPPORT	181,574	151,028	158,729	189,275
<u>EXPENSES/Expensas</u>				
Salaries & Wages & Benefits/Sueldos, salarios y beneficios	104,459	86,789	81,879	99,549
Benevolence/Benevolencia	4,800	4,000	10,075	10,875
Outreach/Education/Divulgación/Educación	0	0	38	38
Worship Supplies/Suministros de adoración	895	695	1,593	1,793
Music/Música	1,065	610	0	455
Stewardship/Mayordomía	1,561	1,287	1,419	1,693
Fellowship/Compañerismo	130	80	209	259
Administration/Administración	12,110	10,565	10,010	11,556
Utilities/Utilidades	20,527	16,724	16,741	20,544
Maintenance/Mantenimiento	15,998	13,690	17,377	19,685
Mortgage/Hipoteca	11,376	9,480	9,480	11,376
Insurance/Seguro	14,067	11,723	12,442	14,787
TOTAL EXPENSES	187,307	155,953	161,264	192,618
EXCESS/(DEFICIENCY) SUP OVER EXP	(5,733)	(4,925)	(2,534)	(3,343)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Date	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Communion Assistant	Reader	Usher
Dec. 6	Missy Porcaro				
Dec. 7	Cindi Larsen	Karen Sedgwick	Chris Lamberton	Sandy Strini	Cheryl Dexter
Dec. 13	Cathy Meyer				
Dec. 14	Cheryl Dexter	Carol Eschmann	Carol Eschmann	Karen Sedgwick	Denis Kreimer
Dec. 20	Jamie Toslek				
Dec. 21	Caren Lamberton	Kathy Christensen	Kathy Christensen	Carol Eschmann	Loren Larsen
Dec. 24	Missy Porcaro	Cindi Larsen	Cindi Larsen	Kathy Christensen	TBA
Dec. 27	Cathy Meyer				
Dec. 28	Kathy Christensen	Karen Fergus	Karen Fergus	Cindi Larsen	Dan Wooster

Advent Candlelight Calendar

We invite you to join us in preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ. Each week of Advent, families from our congregation will help light the candles as we journey together in hope, peace, joy and love.

First Sunday in Advent - November 30

Candlelighters: Rich and Kathy Christensen

Second Sunday in Advent - December 7

Candlelighters: Cheryl Dexter and Soledad Beltran

Third Sunday in Advent - December 14

Candlelighter: Barb McCloskey

Fourth Sunday in Advent - December 21

Candlelighters: Jess and Karen Sedgwick

