



WELCOMING • CELEBRATING • SERVING

We are a 170-year-old worshipping community committed to being a prophetic voice and spiritual refuge in the urban heart of Rockford, IL. We are looking for a full-time rector who can guide us in spiritual formation, lead us in community engagement, and equip each of us for ministry.

Our Vision

A vibrant, growing church in which individuals form relationships with God and with one another in a way that empowers us to serve the needs of all God's people.

Our Values

- We embody the hospitality of Christ, dignifying the divine worth of everyone.
- We strive to listen faithfully, communicating respectfully.
- We learn from the difference and diversity of our community, opening ourselves to each other.
- We foster our imaginations, seeking creativity in worship, programming, and outreach.
- We live with integrity, holding ourselves accountable to our communal values.



WORSHIP

We value our Anglican heritage and the Episcopal liturgy. We primarily celebrate with Rite II and Enriching Our Worship, but appreciate and incorporate more traditional rites as well as the prayers and liturgies from other Anglican communities.

Emmanuel celebrates an open communion in a spoken, Children's and sung Eucharist each Sunday, assisted by a deacon and a team of acolytes, lay readers, musicians, choir and altar guild.

Our Priorities

Our next rector will lead us to:

1. Implement a strategy to reach new people—particularly young adults and families with children—and integrate them into the life of the church;
2. Increase opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life;
3. Create opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships;
4. Call and equip all members for ministry and leadership.

WHO ARE WE?

We are engaged. Our members scored in the 90th percentile for morale in our most recent Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey, a widely used tool to gauge congregational health and vitality. Our members are woven into our outreach, governance, activities, and community. The spirit of our congregation is passionate and it shows.

We have a mission. Emmanuel's sense of purpose focuses our parish because we are in the right place at the right time. As a result, we are healthy and vibrant, ranking high and very high in energy and satisfaction.

We are open to new ideas. Our parish's approach to the Christian tradition and the teachings of Jesus is open, intelligent, inclusive, and collaborative. As a community, we are neither partisan nor overtly political; we are grounded in the goodness of the Gospel and we are not afraid to use our prophetic voice when it is needed in the community.

We are adaptable. We believe in an incarnate church in a rapidly changing world. Many of our members welcome this change and actively seek out new ideas and approaches; others are more comfortable in their spiritual home. We approach change carefully, building consensus before we act.

We are hospitable. Our members care for each other in all stages of life and incorporate new members quickly into the life of the church.

We are inclusive. Emmanuel represents the diversity of our urban community. We believe that every individual is unique and worthy of following in the footsteps of Christ. At any given service, you can expect to see this diversity in action as people from different backgrounds drink from the common chalice.

We are part of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, which is led by Bishop Jeffrey Lee and has 123 member congregations, bordered by Lake Michigan on the east, the Wisconsin border on the north and the Iowa border on the west. The Diocese is known for leadership initiatives to support congregational vitality, such as The College for Congregational Development and Fierce Conversations. The Nicholas Center on the fifth floor of the Diocese's downtown Chicago office hosts leadership events.



MUSIC

Our music program is a key element of our parish identity. We incorporate many musical styles and enhance the Sung Eucharist with choral anthems, instrumental and vocal solos, preludes and postludes. On festival Sundays and special occasions, we feature instrumentalists and vocal soloists. Our choir is a cadre of energetic, talented, and dedicated volunteer musicians who also minister to parish shut-ins and others in the Rockford community.

OUR MINISTRIES

Outreach

Shelter Care Ministries assists the homeless and mentally ill in our neighborhood focusing on the provision of food, shelter, and day care. **Jubilee Center** is a on-site day program with case management for adults who suffer from a chronic mental illness and are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Jeremiah Development is a collaboration with downtown churches working on affordable housing, neighborhood development, and our community garden.

Soup Kitchen: Every Saturday, Emmanuel and its 16 partners serve 200 meals in the Jubilee Center.

Community Engagement

Voting: Partnering with the Rockford Board of Elections, we host early voting, candidate forums, and advocate for voter turnout.

Gun Violence: Emmanuel works to prevent gun violence by partnering with the mayor's office and the League of Women Voters to host forums, panel discussions, and organize March for our Lives.

Community Issues: We regularly made a founding donation to the Family Justice Center, hosted a forum on immigration, and played key roles in organizing March for our Lives and March to the Polls.

Christian Formation

While we provide Christian formation and spiritual development opportunities for members across all stages of life, this is an area we'd like to improve. We'd like more parishioners to know about our offerings and find more ways to sustain what we have.

Infants and children are guided from birth to middle school through loving nursery, Pre-K Sunday School, Godly Play, and Holy Moly classes.

Adult Forum provides topical discussion and Christian education throughout the church calendar. Complementing these weekly opportunities are monthly women's and men's groups, and the seasonal Labyrinth walks.

Our **Aspire program** facilitates arts & spirituality outreach at Emmanuel through musical events, art shows, lectures and presentations on the humanities.

Church Ministries

Parishioners serve in other Emmanuel ministries as well. **Emmanuel Guild** provides crucial fundraising for church initiatives and scholarships for college students. **Emmanuel Reads the Classics** invites members to read classic works of literature together. **Parents' Night Out** offers free childcare so parents can rest or reconnect. Church volunteers support students' learning in our neighborhood public school, STEAM Academy at Haskell.



STEWARDSHIP & SUPPORT

Emmanuel is blessed with a well-maintained facility, a \$2 million endowment fund, and a generous membership. We currently have 96 pledging units (individuals or families) and our average giving is slightly below the national average, which we attribute to the income disparities among our parish members. One challenge going forward is to shift from supplementing operational costs with endowment funds to being operational with pledges and use the endowment for outreach and special projects.

Church assessment roll:	200
Average Sunday Attendance:	135
Membership annual growth:	6%
Givers of record:	96
2019 annual giving:	\$300,147

ABOUT YOU

Our rector will be prepared to:

- ❖ Lead a lively, open-minded, and open-hearted faith community;
- ❖ Offer pastoral support for people of all ages;
- ❖ Provide spiritual care for those affected by mental illness and addiction;
- ❖ Engage all members in spiritual formation, practice, and ministry;
- ❖ Develop a church growth strategy that focuses on families and young adults;
- ❖ Lead a church staff of a Deacon, Administrator, Choirmaster, Director of Music, Director of Children and Family Ministries, Sexton, Treasurer, and Nursery Coordinator.

Our rector will be someone who is:

- ❖ An advocate for justice, peace, and inclusion;
- ❖ A master of gospel-focused, concise homiletics;
- ❖ Flexible with worship options from the Book of Common Prayer and Enriching Our Worship;
- ❖ Able to chant, as well as speak, the liturgy.

Our rector will be a leader who:

- ❖ Listens and communicates well;
- ❖ Delegates authority and responsibility to staff and lay leaders;
- ❖ Gathers consensus ahead of key changes;
- ❖ Possesses strong administrative and stewardship skills.

ABOUT ROCKFORD

Rockford is the third largest city in Illinois. It is a river city with exceptional arts programs, recreational opportunities, and dining. Visitors and residents fall in love with Rockford City Market, the biannual ArtScene, the Coronado Performing Arts Center, the Rockford Symphony Orchestra, and the Rockford Art Museum. Families with children spend time in the Discovery Center, the Burpee Museum of Natural History, and the Rockford Public Library while adults enjoy our restaurant and a burgeoning brew-pub scene at Prairie Street Brewhouse, Carlyle Brewing, and Pig Minds Brewing. The Rockford Park District offers dozens of outdoor and indoor parks, playgrounds, sports facilities, golf courses, and pools for picnics and concerts, healthy activities such as walking, bicycling, and running, as well as innovative playgrounds, skate parks, and dog parks. Looking to explore further? Rockford is just 90 miles from Chicago and Milwaukee, Wis., and 70 miles from Madison.



Like most post-industrial cities, Rockford faces unemployment, racial tensions, an undereducated workforce, crime, and urban-suburban divides. Emmanuel is geographically located at the epicenter of these challenges and we view ourselves as an integral partner in addressing them. Groups like Transform Rockford, Eliminate Racism 815, and our own Jeremiah Development are working with the City of Rockford and Winnebago County to address these challenges. We are looking for a rector who will fall in love with our city just as we have and who is ready to live and serve with us.

Are You Our Next Rector?

If you would like to be considered for this position, please fill out the Clergy Information Form for Transitions and submit your cover letter and resume at this link: www.episcopalchicago.org/our-diocese/for-clergy/clergy-openings

For additional information, please visit our parish website and contact the Director of Ministries for the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, the Reverend Andrea Mysen, at 312-751-4203 or amysen@episcopalchicago.org.