



WELCOMING • CELEBRATING • SERVING

We are a 175-year-old worshipping community committed to being a prophetic voice and spiritual refuge in the urban heart of Rockford, Illinois. 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 but appreciate and incorporate more traditional rites as well as the prayers and liturgies from other Anglican communities.

Emmanuel celebrates an open communion in two services most Sundays, one spoken and one with music assisted by a team of acolytes, lay readers, musicians, choir and the altar guild.

Our Opportunities

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: In our most recent Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey, members scored in the 65th percentile for morale. Church members are actively involved in the services, facility maintenance, outreach, and music ministries. Beyond, we view continuing to build on this level of engagement as central to our church community.

We have a mission: Emmanuel's sense of purpose focuses our parish within our church walls and beyond into the wider community. The recent CAT survey revealed that our Spiritual Vitality is one of the highest scores ever seen within our diocese. We are comfortable sharing our faith and the gospel in both word and deeds. We look for our next Rector to share our energy and to nurture our growth.

We are open to both new ideas and respecting tradition: Our parish's approach to the Episcopalian tradition and Jesus's teaching is inclusive, intelligent, and collaborative. We believe other faith traditions can inform our church practices. We are neither partisan nor overtly political. Instead, we are grounded in the goodness of the Gospel and we choose to use our prophetic voice when we see it needed in the community.

We are adaptable: We celebrate an incarnate church in a rapidly changing world. Many of our members welcome this change and actively seek out new ideas and approaches. Others find ongoing comfort in their existing spiritual home. As a congregation, we celebrate both, while also feeling a call to reach out to new individuals and families. We seek a rector with the skills and drive to make our church a home for all.

We are hospitable: As a parish family, we realize we have a responsibility to care for each other throughout life's journey. We enjoy intergenerational engagement within and outside of our worship services. We are proud of how we live our values in greeting potential new members and understanding the evolving needs of existing members.

We are inclusive: Particularly as an urban congregation, we recognize that every individual is unique and worthy of God's love. At any service, you can expect to see this diversity in action as people from different backgrounds drink from a common chalice. We believe Jesus asks nothing less of us.

We value God's Creation: Emmanuel takes seriously our responsibility to care for God's beautiful, but fragile creation. With that in mind, Vestry earlier this year agreed to fund a solar array that will dramatically reduce Emmanuel's carbon footprint and energy costs. Installation is expected to take place in fourth quarter of 2026.



MUSIC

Our music program is a key element of our parish identity. We incorporate many musical styles and enhance the 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 is celebrating forty years of service to our community and the cornerstone of our outreach. SCM provides short-term and permanent housing for over one hundred homeless individuals and families in our community.

The Jubilee Center is an on-site drop-in center for adults who suffer from chronic mental illness and are either homeless or at risk of homelessness. Jubilee offers case management services, meals, groceries, showers, housing, laundry and a place to belong.

Jeremiah Development is a collaboration with other downtown churches working on neighborhood development. The cornerstone of our work with them is a community garden providing fresh vegetables and herbs to our neighbors throughout the summer and fall.

Soup Kitchen – Every Saturday, Emmanuel and its sixteen partners serve more than 200 hot meals and fellowship at the Jubilee Center.

Overnight Café – Last winter we partnered with another downtown church to provide overnight shelter and hot meals to Rockford's highest risk homeless population during the coldest nights of the year.

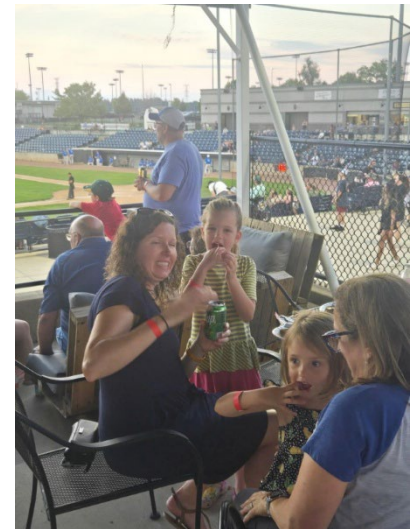
Community Engagement

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

Tutoring – Members of our congregation participate in a tutoring program at our local elementary school. This school now has an exemplary rating according to GreatSchools.org.

Choral Scholars Program – Partnering with Rockford University to provide support for aspiring musicians in our area.

Scarf ministry – Every fall, the members of our congregation pull together to make a wide variety of scarves to distribute to those in need in our community. In the past nine years, they have given away nearly five thousand scarves to those in need.



Christian Formation

We are currently offering both a children's program and adult education. We are looking for the right candidate to facilitate weeknight bible studies and additional opportunities for individual spiritual growth.

Sunday School – spanning the gamut from pre-K to high school, we offer Sunday morning classes in addition to a recent confirmation class.

Adult Forum – provides topical discussion, interaction with community leaders, bible studies and lively debate between our services on Sunday mornings. Our topics have ranged from saving butterflies to immigration issues to the changing role of the church in today's world.

Arts Programs – facilitate arts and spirituality outreach at Emmanuel through musical events, art shows, lectures and presentations on the humanities.



Church Ministries

There are many other opportunities for our parishioners to be involved in parish life. Our annual service of **Lessons and Carols** draws a large audience from the entire city of Rockford.

Emmanuel Guild provides hospitality and fundraising for church initiatives and outreach, as well as an annual scholarship to graduating seniors from our congregation. They host an annual Tea for families and a Musicales that brings together the congregation for an evening of food and music. There is a monthly **Lunch Bunch** that gathers at local restaurants for a meal and fellowship. The **Book Club** meets monthly to discuss both classic and new works of literature. The **Grief Group** has been providing support to the members of our family who are working through the loss of a loved one. Our Altar Guild, Choir, Ushers, Greeters, Lay Visitors, Lectors and Acolytes also provide opportunities for service.



STEWARDSHIP & SUPPORT

Emmanuel is blessed with a well-maintained facility, an endowment of over \$2 million, and a generous membership. We currently have 72 pledging units (individuals or families), and our average giving is slightly below the national average, which we attribute to 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.

Actual to Budget Comparisons - 2023							
	2025 Actual August YTD	2025 Budget August YTD	2024 Actual Fu Year				
General Fund Income	232,670.00	232,149.00	449,714.00				
General Fund Expenses							
Salaries & Benefits	118,326.00	128,305.00	258,075.00	276,379.00	267,799.00	269,247.00	
Office Expenses	12,962.00	19,428.00	14,587.00	17,750.00	11,962.00	18,100.00	
Program Expenses	18,879.00	17,463.00	44,009.00	23,500.00	53,964.00	35,800.00	
Building Expenses	70,673.00	52,780.00	102,138.00	77,155.00	81,953.00	81,408.00	
Total General Fund Expense	220,840.00	217,976.00	418,809.00	394,784.00	415,678.00	404,555.00	
Total Income/Loss	11,830.00	14,173.00	30,905.00	(37,384.00)	(15,504.00)	(51,525.00)	

Church Assessment Roll	123
Average Sunday Attendance	75
Givers of Record	72
2025 Annual Giving (Projected)	\$268,000

We are a loving and generous parish. We acknowledge a history of rector transition which has helped us to focus our search for a rector. We seek a rector with a strong sense of self without rigidity and can hold a mirror up to us and stand in front of the mirror with us. From there we can walk together and mirror Christ to all as Emmanuel, God with us.

ABOUT YOU

The Emmanuel Rector will come:

- With a positive and healthy sense of self, a cultivated spirituality and an inclusive, supportive outgoing disposition
- Having demonstrated superior pastoral skills in personal, congregational and community settings
- An inspirational communicator with demonstrated energy to encourage and support new ideas
- Steeped and comfortable in liturgy with strong music, choral, and gospel lesson content

Our rector will be someone who:

- Will inspire vision, spiritual life, relationships and formation
- Has new ideas for energetic outreach, growth and Christian education for our broad range of members and the surrounding community we serve
- Will be a confident listener and leader accessible for members and broad pastoral ministry
- Has strong administrative skills (social media a plus) and positive experience in leading, working and participating with an effective vestry in overseeing and managing a congregation, staff, volunteers, finances, building and grounds
- The ability to work with the congregation's members as a leader, pastor, and companion

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.

ABOUT ROCKFORD

For families, educational opportunities are a significant draw.

A thriving arts scene is anchored by the historic [Coronado Performing Arts Center](#), which hosts a variety of musical and theatrical performances, while local art can be appreciated at the [Rockford Art Museum](#) and during the lively annual Spring and Fall Art Scene. Music enthusiasts can discover local talent at various live music venues, including special performances ranging from traditional organ concerts to a wide variety of more contemporary options. The city's family-friendly atmosphere is further enriched by attractions like the hands-on [Discovery Center Museum](#) and the dinosaur exhibits at the [Burpee Museum of Natural History](#), ensuring entertainment and educational opportunities for all ages.

Known as "The Forest City" for its natural spaces, Rockford boasts numerous parks and gardens, such as the nationally known [Anderson Japanese Gardens](#) and the scenic trails of the [Severson Dells Nature Center](#). For more rugged exploration, residents can camp and hike through wooded trails and along the lake at Rock Cut State Park (the largest state park in northern Illinois) or one of 44 forest preserves our county. In addition, the [Rockford Park District](#) is the third largest municipal park system in Illinois and has twice been the recipient of the prestigious National Gold Medal for excellence.

Throughout the year, a multitude of community events foster a strong sense of local pride, from seasonal celebrations like [Stroll on State](#), [Festival of Lights](#) and All Aglow holiday display at [Nicholas Conservatory](#), to City Market, Pride weekend and a variety of downtown holiday parades and cultural festival celebrations. There is always something happening around Rockford.

For foodies, Rockford offers a diverse culinary scene that caters to every taste, from fine dining to food trucks. There are establishments that offer variety of cuisines including: Korean BBQ, Mediterranean, Indian, Philippine, Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Greek, Mexican and pizza. To satisfy your thirst, we have multiple brew pubs, a growing cocktail scene and many locally owned coffee shops and cafes. Rockford is also home to the oldest vegan brew pub in the country.

Sports fans can enjoy cheering on the Rockford IceHogs hockey team, Rockford Rivets minor league baseball team, Ski Broncs and Rockford Ravens Rugby. Active people can take advantage of many recreational facilities: bike trails, walking paths, BMX track, more than one dozen golf courses, public pools, water sports and a vital YMCA with multiple locations.

For families, educational opportunities are a significant draw. Students and their families are supported by a public school district, that offers a variety of options, including special programs for elementary and middle school students, and focused career path courses at the high school level. There are multiple high quality private school options and innovative programs like Rockford Promise, which offers tuition-free college to eligible local graduates. Rockford is also home to institutions of higher learning including Rock Valley College, Rockford University, Rockford Career College and the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford.

Economically, the area is growing, with key sectors including aerospace, advanced manufacturing, and healthcare providing a strong employment base and opportunities for new jobs. In April 2024, the Wall Street Journal/Realtor.com named Rockford the [#1 housing market in the country](#). With a cost of living significantly lower than the national average and an ongoing downtown revitalization, Rockford offers a high quality of life, combining big-city amenities with small-town charm.

More information about our community can be found at gorockford.com

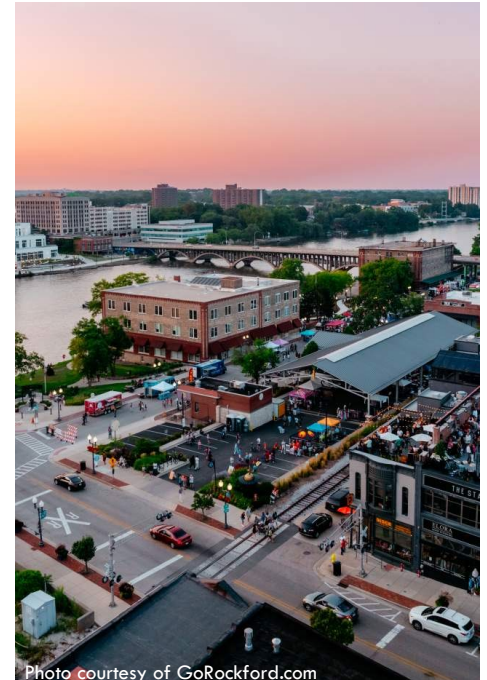


Photo courtesy of GoRockford.com



Photo courtesy GoRockford.com

ABOUT THE DIOCESE

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago offers a dynamic and diverse landscape for ministry, stretching across northern Illinois—from the shores of Lake Michigan to the banks of the Mississippi River, from the Wisconsin border to Peoria and beyond. With 114 congregations in urban, suburban, and rural communities, the diocese offers a rich variety of contexts in which to live out one's calling.

Clergy in new calls are supported through the Fresh Start program, designed to ease transitions, and foster strong foundations and collegial relationships. Opportunities for connection and renewal, including the annual Clergy Retreat and the Chrism Mass, bring clergy together for worship, fellowship, and shared purpose. The diocese invests in leadership development through the College for Congregational Development, lay leadership programs, and the Certified Church Treasurer initiative—ensuring that clergy and laity are equipped to lead thriving, resilient congregations.

Under the leadership of the Right Reverend Paula E. Clark, the diocese is embracing a strategic planning process that uses data to guide mission focus and resource allocation. Episcopal Charities and diocesan commissions, committees, and taskforces are actively engaged in outreach, education, and advocacy. The diocese is consciously moving toward becoming a more adaptive environment for ministry.

To apply for this position, please complete The Clergy Information Form for Transitions from the Diocesan website: episcopalchicago.wufoo.com/forms/m1poxgz40cwsj2w/

Questions about this position should be directed to The Reverend Canon Andrea Mysen, Canon to the Ordinary: amysen@episcopalchicago.org

