

From Pastor David

Worship Plus Two

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” -Galatians 5:22-23

August is harvest month from our gardens: beans, cucumbers, zucchini, tomatoes. So good, and so good for you! I just saw the first of the sweet corn, too! The fruits and vegetables fresh from the garden taste so much better than what you get trucked in at a store.

This has made me think that God feels the same way...about us! Each of us are plants growing in God's garden. But as plants, we have a purpose. It's not just to grow big and beautiful, although that is important. God does want us to grow up into healthy, sturdy, and mature people of faith. But the point is not for us to just have a great personal relationship with God. God also intends for us to bear fruit. God wants us as His plants in His garden to produce fruit!

Last summer, about this time, Evangel's Church Council was reading John 15, where Jesus teaches about the vine and branches. We are the branches and Jesus is the Vine. We are called to stay connected to the Vine. The purpose? In verse 5, Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."

In a sharing time this past week, one of the elders of our church commented, "Fruit never serves the plant that produces it; it is always for the benefit of others." Wow! What a re-visioning of the purpose of our discipleship! The fruit God seeks is the ways we share His blessings with others: the way we use our lives to bless God's other children. The Bible talks about it in terms of spiritual fruit, or fruit of the [Holy] Spirit. God is excited about the harvest of our fruit so that the blessing is shared.

We are each branches in the God's garden! We are called to grow spiritually. For us, that means each of us as individual plants growing closer to God personally. That also means each of us growing closer with one another in God's family so we can be the diverse and full garden God intends. But it also means that we all grow into our calling to bear fruit of blessing: touching others for God.

So, as we are watering, weeding, pruning and tending our gardens, all for the purpose of harvesting delicious fruit, let us also be intentional about tending our spiritual lives so that we can bear the delicious fruit God is anticipating. One way to cultivate our lives for producing good spiritual fruit is to commit to the "Worship Plus Two" pattern. We grow well as Christians with a "W+2" cadence. That means each week or two, engage in three acts.

Worship. Attend corporate worship, and in person when you can. There is no substitute for this. We engage God not as individuals, but as a community. If we are in town, let's commit to being in worship!

"Plus two." This means doing two additional activities. One is to do something that intentionally helps you grow personally closer to God ("one for you"). Engage in personal devotions. Go to a Christian concert. Attend an online conference. Participate in a small group (new small groups coming in September!).

The other is to do something that intentionally helps someone else ("one for someone else"). Serve in some way. There are tons of opportunities available through our church. You can also do this on your own: volunteer an afternoon somewhere, mentor a student, go pick up trash along the road.

Worship Plus Two. One for God, one for you, one for someone else. Love God. Love Others. Serve as Christ's Hands and Feet. That's our church's motto! It's also the cadence that leads to spiritual growth.

Next time you get excited about fresh garden produce, think about how God gets excited about the fruit of His people. Let's commit to "W+2," and producing good fruit!

Happy Summer!

Pastor David

Inside this issue:

Announcements	2
Connections & Growth	4
Children's Sunday School Continues to Grow!	7
Mega Kids Camp Pictures	8
Crossfire	9
Missions	10
Calendar	11

Summer Message Series: Revelation!

This summer Pastor David will preach through the Book of Revelation with a message series entitled, "What Is Real." Revelation can be very confusing and prompt a myriad of interpretations and predictions. Yet it's very title (Revelation) identifies that it's purpose is not to confuse but to make known! Join Pastor David as we explore what (actually Who) Revelation reveals!

In preparation each week, consider reading ahead of time the chapters covered:



Photo by Brett Jordan on Unsplash

AUGUST READING SCHEDULE

Aug. 3	No Revelation Message (Pastor Susie O'Connell preaching)
August 10	Revelation 15-16
August 17	Revelation 17-21
August 24	Revelation 22

Make a Difference! Be a Blessing!

Evangel offers help and blessings in a variety of ways. If you are willing to help out in any of these ways, please let the office know and you'll be contacted on how to help:

- Sunday morning hospitality (a variety of ways - just ask!)
- Tech Team (run the worship sideshows, cameras and/or sound for worship)
- Special music (serve on the Praise Team or offer special music)
- Bible Story Time (connect with the Good News Children's Center children, Thursday mornings)
- Kitchen Krew (serve occasional meals)
- Community Dinners (serve meals Wednesday evenings)
- Community Ministries (serve meals at Dorothy Day House)
- Older Folders (Fridays, 11am folding bulletins)
- Evangel Cares (help to home-bound)
- Home Visitor (visit homebound people in their homes)
- Evangel Moves (help people move to a new home)
- Evangel Projects (adopt a project on the building or grounds)
- Gardens & Landscaping (weeding, watering, planting, etc.)
- Office Coverage (answer phones and greet people when Mike is out)
- Funeral receptions (help provide and serve food)



Financial Summary Ending June 2025

	Year-to-date (YTD)
Income from Church Congregation Giving	\$285,555.00
Other Operating Income	\$57,112.00
Total Income from Operations	\$342,667.00
Total Expense from Operations	\$339,763.00
Net Income / (Loss) from Operations	\$2,904.00

YTD income is about "spot on" where we need to be at this point in the year. We were fortunate to receive a handful of large gifts in June to our General Fund as some contributors or giving units chose to "catch up" to this point in the year. We also had some annual contributions in the first 6 months.

NET: We are basically "breakeven" (income vs expenses) halfway through the year. Today, the finance team continues to be grateful for the generosity of the congregation.

For questions or for more information, contact Arlene Morris, chair of the finance committee, at:
vammorris@gmail.com



Wednesday Night Meals Will Return...

...on September 3 in the Dinette



United Methodist Women

Sewing Circle..... Mondays throughout August at 1:00pm in room 223 (9am on Aug.4)

Women's Gathering..... Thurs., August 21 at 1:00pm in the Lobby. ALL women are invited. If you have any questions, contact Becky Pierce at 507-289-6802.

Evangel's Culture of Hospitality: All Are Welcome!

Evangel extends a warm welcome to all who desire to connect and engage!

It's up to YOU! Everyone who is a part of Evangel is called to embody and extend that welcome, especially when at the Evangel building and particularly on Sunday mornings. Sunday mornings we make a special effort to make sure everyone feels welcome:

- Attend in person so you can meet other people.
- Plan to come early and stay after worship in order to mingle and connect with others.
- Please wear a name tag Sunday mornings (available at the Welcome Center).
- Sit by someone in the sanctuary you don't know well (Yes, change where you sit!).
- Make a point to spend three minutes after worship to introduce yourself to those around you in the sanctuary.
- Make a point to spend ten minutes after worship connecting with people you don't know as well.
- Everyone is asked to mingle in the lobby before and after worship, making a point to engage people who are not visiting with others. If someone is alone, that's YOUR cue to go and introduce yourself.
- Before leaving someone in the lobby, introduce them to someone else nearby.
- Offer guidance to people unfamiliar with Evangel: point out the bathrooms, the all-needs bathrooms, the drinking fountain, the nursery, the Welcome Center, the classrooms.



Other ideas to extend hospitality:

- Sit by someone you don't know well in Sunday School, at the Wednesday Community Dinner, and other times.
- Reach out to folks you haven't seen in a while.
- Write a "get well" or "praying for you" card to people listed on the prayer list.
- Invite someone new to go with you to a small group or event.
- Invite someone else to serve with you at an event or function.

We need volunteers in specialized roles Sunday mornings:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Greeters | • Holy Communion servers | • Staff the Welcome Center |
| • Ushers | • Hosting coffee and treats | • Outdoor greeters |
| • Scripture readers | | |

If you are willing to serve in any of these needs (perhaps consider one Sunday a month), please contact Marsha Woolums, Kay Hess or Pastor David.

Romans 12:13b says, "Practice hospitality." Let's keep building our Evangel culture where all are welcome and included! It starts with each of us!

Jim Klepper, Director of Connections & Growth: jklepper@evangelum.org
 Clancy Craven, Assoc. Dir. of Connections & Growth: ccraven@evangelum.org

Calendar for August

Every Sunday..... Children's Church in Children's Library (during both services)
 Every Sunday..... Nursery open at 9:30am & 10:30am
 Tues., August 12..... Connections & Growth Team
 August TBA..... Sunday School Teacher training & Orientation
 Sun., September 7..... Kick Off Sunday
 Sun., September 7..... Intergenerational Club at Niagara Cave

Children's Church is Exploring Serving God this August

All children in Pre. K to Grade 5 are invited to Children's Church this summer during both Sunday morning worship services. Leaders Jim Klepper, Clancy Craven and Youth Group members will incorporate stories, object lessons and crafts to make every Sunday a fun and memorable experience!

Kick Off Sunday is September 7

Kickoff Sunday is the day we launch Evangel's Sunday School, youth and music ministries for the new school year. Join in for "larger-than-life" object lessons, praise and worship music with our Good News band, 2nd grade Bible presentations, meet the teachers, and more!

After our worship celebration time, we'll move to the south parking lot for a catered BBQ lunch and games. **The fun will continue with an adventure to Niagara Cave in Harmony, MN the first Intergenerational Event of the year!** (Details below). Kick Off Sunday will be a fun and memorable day as we come back together after being apart over the summer.

Sunday School Registration Now Open

If you are new to Evangel Sunday School, click: [Sunday School/Children's Church Signup](#) and fill out the form to register your child. This form is required for children and youth age 3 – Grade 12. You can also email Jim or Clancy. If you have been to Sunday School you do not need to register. We look forward to serving all of you this school year!

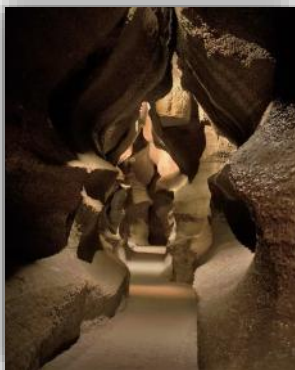
An Exciting Line Up of Activities for the 2025-2026 Intergenerational Club

Evangel's Intergenerational Club is gearing up this fall for another awesome year of adventure and mission service for kids, youth and adults! We are currently working on a line up of service opportunities and recreational activities:

Service—Ronald McDonald House, Salvation Army, Jeremiah House, Evangel landscaping, raking leaves for seniors, Nazarene Well House meals and cleaning, Feed The Need Food Wall, Zumbro Ridge Estates, The Landing and others.

Recreational—Silver Lake sports (paddleboats, biking, kayaks, corn hole, 9 square) Skyline Raceway, The Spam Museum in Austin, MN, Camp Victory, Steeple Chase snow tubing, Quarry Hill Park and naturalists presentations, Recreation Center ice skating, Oxbow Park, Niagara Cave, Air Insanity, Ironwood Springs Camp horse and game day, Bowlocity, Christmas lights tour and movie, the alpaca farm, and the Red Barn Learning Farm.

Evangel's Connection & Growth Team strives to balance teaching and "hands on" missional discipleship, as well as recreational opportunities to build our children and youth community. We also teach outreach by inviting friends into it all. Join us for what will be our best Intergenerational Club year ever!



Intergenerational Club Will Explore Niagara Cave

Sunday, Sept. 7 from 1-3pm | Cost is \$10

29842 Co Rd 30, Harmony, MN 55939

Come explore God's creation at Niagara Cave in Harmony, MN. On the tour we will see a 60-foot underground waterfall, ancient fossils, amazing cave formations, a subterranean wedding chapel and pan for gemstones! Afterwards (back on the surface) we'll play a round of 18-hole mini golf. Meet at Evangel at 1pm to car-pool or meet at the cave. We'll be home at 4pm. To sign up, click: [Niagara Cave Tour](#)



New Class Configurations Coming This Fall!

Our **Connections & Growth Team** has been thoughtfully reviewing the current class structure in our Sunday School program. To better meet the developmental needs of our children and ensure optimal group sizes and peer engagement, we are excited to announce a **new class configuration** starting this fall:

- **Pre-Kindergarten**
- **Grades K–2**
- **Grades 3–5**

These updates are designed to provide age-appropriate learning environments while maintaining a strong sense of community and spiritual growth.

More details will be shared in a special letter to our Evangel Church family this August—**stay tuned!**

Sunday School Teacher Recruitment Now Underway for the 2025 - 2026 Year

Evangel is blessed with a rich legacy of over 50 years in Christian Education, driven by our mission to pass on the faith and lead new generations to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

A cornerstone of this mission is our Sunday School Ministry, which uses a relational, life-transforming approach to share the Gospel and nurture lasting faith.

We are now recruiting our teaching staff for the 2025–2026 year. We're looking to retain many of our teachers from past years but to also bring in new teachers as well. The mixture of experience and new ideas is vital to the excellence of our Sunday School Department. Connections & Growth will provide:

- Team teaching environment in every classroom featuring 3 to 5 teachers per room. You are never alone and it is easy to have time off when needed.
- A curriculum that is easy to use and follow. Everything is provided for you and you do not need to write lessons. Just follow the guidelines in the material and share parts of the lessons with your co teachers.
- Training and support provided by Jim Klepper and Clancy Craven.
- Excellent classroom space that is clean, safe, and bright. A fun atmosphere is always provided.
- Supplies for the classroom: scissors, paper, anything your heart desires!



Are you interested in joining our team or would like more information? Fill out the form and drop off or mail to: Evangel UMC 2645 North Broadway, Rochester, MN 55906. Contact Jim or Clancy with questions.

Consider teaching this year in Evangel Sunday School!

Evangel Sunday School Teacher Registration 2025 - 2026

___ **Yes**, I would like to join Evangel's Teaching Team for the 2025 - 26 Sunday School year.

___ **Yes**, please contact me with more information.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

"First a child learns to love their teacher, then they learn to love their teacher's God."

Save the Date: Evangel City-Wide Rummage Sale – Saturday, November 1

The Christian Education Rummage Sale will once again take place on the **first Saturday of November** this year. This change allows us to move the sale away from our annual “Trunk or Treat” weekend, helping to reduce scheduling stress for our dedicated volunteers who serve at both events. By shifting the sale just one week later, we ensure that guests from the community won’t miss out. If visitors come expecting the traditional late-October date, we hope they’ll return the following weekend to join us.

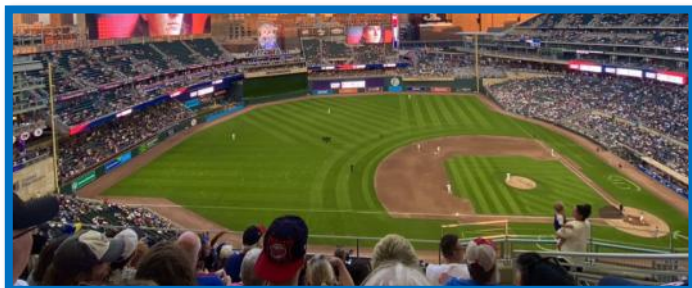
The rummage sale is a **critical fundraiser** for our Christian Education ministry, directly supporting many vital programs including:

Sunday School	Trunk or Treat
Intergenerational Club	Feed the Need
Children’s Church	Easter Egg Hunt
Mega Kids Camp	Mental Health Forums and much more!

Every dollar raised goes directly to support our children’s ministries and citywide outreach efforts. So please **save your donations** for us and **mark your calendar for Saturday, November 1**. Your generosity makes a lasting difference in the lives of children and families across our community. For questions or to get involved, please contact **Jim or Clancy**. Thank you for your continued support!

Evangel Day at Target Field: Twins vs. Nationals

Evangel had another great day at **Target Field**, cheering on the **Minnesota Twins** as they took on the **Washington Nationals**! Everyone received a **free Bailey Ober jersey**, and it was an awesome day at the ballpark.



Children's Sunday School Continues to GROW in 2025–2026!

Evangel Connections & Growth is excited to announce the launch of Year 2 of the GROW Curriculum—an innovative & creative approach to children's discipleship that is transforming lives!

What Is GROW?

GROW Curriculum is a leading resource in children's ministry, designed to help kids take meaningful steps toward owning their faith. Each Sunday, children will experience a dynamic large group session with Jim, Clancy, and other adult leaders using multimedia, videos, and engaging content—followed by age-specific small group time with Evangel's dedicated Sunday School teachers.

Our Focus: Helping Kids Own Their Faith

At Evangel, we count it a win when a child takes a step forward in their personal faith journey. GROW centers on developing four essential spiritual habits:



1. **Spend Time with God:** Kids learn to connect with God through Scripture, prayer, and worship—both in group settings and throughout their daily lives.
2. **Spend Time with Others:** Building Christ-centered friendships, intergenerational connections, & strong mentoring relationships (both inside and outside the church) fosters a sense of spiritual community.
3. **Use Their Gifts:** Children discover their unique God-given talents and are encouraged to use them to serve, love, and reflect Jesus to others.
4. **Share Their Story:** Kids are empowered to talk about their faith journey and share the story of what God is doing in their lives—helping them grow in understanding and confidence.

How Do We Nurture Growth?

We create engaging, safe, and fun environments every Sunday where kids:

- Learn through exciting Bible lessons
- Build relationships with trusted adults and peers
- Memorize Scripture
- Participate in interactive activities
- Join special events like **Intergenerational Club** and quarterly discipleship projects

NEW for 2025–2026: Partnering with Parents

This year, we're deepening our partnership with parents! We'll be providing:

- Regular communication about what we're teaching and why
- Weekly devotionals that align with classroom lessons
- Take-home conversation starters to help parents disciple their children at home



We are thrilled for another powerful year of faith and growth. Let's continue to **GROW together** in 2025 -2026!

For more information or to get involved, contact:

Jim Klepper – jklepper@evangelum.org
Clancy Craven – ccraven@evangelum.org

Mega Kids Camp “In Your Element” – A Huge Success!

Over 450 kids and 135 volunteers came together with our mission partner, Brooklyn Center UMC, for Evangel's 13th Mega Kids Camp—and it was a huge success! Kids grew in faith, found their purpose, and learned to trust Jesus through every challenge. Thank you to everyone who made it amazing!



CROSSFIRE NEWS

Youth Room Renovations

The painting crew has completed painting and it is looking great! In August there will be renovation work including new furniture, lighting and texturized surroundings!

Mission Trip – Summer 2026

We're heading to *Woodbridge, VA* the week of **July 19, 2026**.

Interested in a **middle school-only** mission trip next summer? Please speak with Peter Kroneman, Mandi Ellenbaum, or Anita Hermanson. We'll need a minimum commitment of **5–6 youth** and **2 adult leaders** by the **end of September** to move forward with planning.

Coming up:

Youth Leadership Team: Thurs., Aug. 7 at 7pm in the Fireside Room

Youth Group Night Kick Off: Friday, Sept. 5 at 7pm

Youth Leadership Team

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, August 7 at 7 PM**. Please note this is a change from our usual schedule.

Musical Support Needed

Worship music is a vital part of our youth group gatherings. If you have musical talents you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you! Reach out to any member of the Youth Leadership Team.

Welcome 6th Graders!

If you're entering 6th grade this fall, you're officially invited to join our youth group (Grades 6–12). Mark your calendar:

Youth Group Kickoff Night – Friday, September 5 at 7 PM.

Take Time to Rest

As we look back on a busy and meaningful summer and prepare for an exciting fall, remember to take time to rest and recharge. Find your quiet center—it's time well spent.

Looking back at everything we've done this year, it's truly inspiring to see the energy and commitment of our youth. A pastor friend recently told me, "You have a good church."
I couldn't have said it better myself.

Calling Adult Volunteers

We're always looking to grow our team—especially anyone with a passion for leading music during our gatherings. If you're interested in helping out in any way, please reach out to a member of the Youth Leadership team. Your support makes a huge difference!

Monthly Late-Night Event

7:00–11:00 PM

A high-energy gathering modeled after our popular Late-Night Events. Think games, worship, food, and fun.

Monthly Small Group Night

7:00–9:00 PM

A more relaxed, organic evening designed to foster deeper conversations and community.

Stay Connected!

Follow us on Instagram at [@evangel.umc.youth](https://www.instagram.com/evangel.umc.youth). We'll be sharing photos and updates from our mission trip and other youth events throughout the summer!

Missions Update

The Mission Team met July 9 and allocated money to Chuck and Kathy Hohnbaum with Serge Ministries who are ministering in Ireland; Randy and Susan Roberts with Frontiers Ministries who are ministering in the Middle East; and Abbey Miles who will be on a one year internship in the Middle East with CRU Ministries. Abby, the granddaughter of Kay Hess and Bob and Ruth Miles, reviewed her coming Middle East mission with the July 20th Drop In Class.

Recent Missions Team news can be found on the Mission Bulletin board located in the hallway across from Room 223. If you would like to financially support a mission in addition to our general fund giving, please send a check to the Church office and designate the funds for Missions: 2nd Mile Giving. You can also give online by clicking: [Give \(exiogiving.com\)](http://Givexiogiving.com) and select "2nd Mile Gift". The Mission Team, with the guidance of the Church Council, will distribute the funding.

The Missions Team's next meeting is on Wed., Aug. 13 at 4pm in the Fireside Room (Zoom available). If you have ideas or want to be actively involved in the Mission Team, contact any member of the team: Jim Cooper, Roger Guderian, Linda Gregg, Carol Madsen, Bev Morgan, Becky Pierce, Colleen Stacy or Pastor David Werner.

Giving from your smartphone is easy! Just open your camera and scan the image below:



Mission Speakers for the Month of August

Sunday, August 17: Ann Carlson

Ann Carlson, a staff member at Hamline United Methodist Church in Minneapolis and coordinator of the scholarship program for the school in Sierra Leone run by Rev. Judith Giama, will be sharing about scholarship sponsorships for both students and teachers at the Rev. Rick Ormsby School in Biawalla, Sierra Leone (see below). Ann will share how each of us can help sponsor students and teachers for the 2025–2026 school year!

Sunday, August 24: Rev. Judith Giama

Rev. Judith Giama came to Minnesota for her divinity education and is ordained in the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. After her ordination, she returned to her home village of Biawalla, Sierra Leone, where she established a United Methodist Church and the Rev. Rick Ormsby School. Evangel Church has sponsored Rev. Judith since the beginning of her ministry. Don't miss this special opportunity to hear firsthand about the incredible work we are supporting in Biawalla!

Support a Child's Education

The Ormsby School, Baiwalla, Sierra Leone | 2025–2026 School Year

Baiwalla is a rural town in Sierra Leone where 40% of adults are illiterate and many families live on \$2/day. The Ormsby School—built with church and individual support—equips students with the tools to break the cycle of poverty.

Your Help Is Needed!

The Rev. Rick Ormsby School in Biawalla, Sierra Leone, serves 500 students in grades 1–12 and is the only secondary school within a 50-mile radius. Rising costs for supplies, teacher salaries, and student meals are putting significant pressure on the school's budget. Your support is vital to keeping education accessible for these students and ensuring that teachers remain motivated and well-equipped to teach.



How to Give

1. Online: Click: [Sierra Leone: Richard Ormsby School](http://SierraLeone:RichardOrmsbySchool)
2. Check: OC Ministries c/o Minnesota Annual Conference, 122 W. Franklin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404, *Memo line: "Ormsby School"*
3. Scan the QR code >>>>>>



\$500 = One student's tuition and fees (full year)
 \$150 = School lunches for one student (1 year)
 \$2,400 = One teacher's salary (per year)
 Any amount = Helps meet urgent school needs

August 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
					11a Older Folders	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:15a Prayer for Worship 8:30a Traditional Service 9:30a Drop-In Class 10:30a Contemporary Service	1p Sewing Circle	6:30p Connect Group Design Team	3p Confirmation 4:00pm Community Ministries 6:15p Praise Team	6pm Meal hosting at Dorothy Day house 7pm Youth Leadership Team	11a Older Folders	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:15a Prayer for Worship 8:30a Traditional Service 9:30a Drop-In Class 10:30a Contemporary Service	1p Sewing Circle	6:30p Connections & Growth 7p Trustees	3p Confirmation 4p Missions Team 6:15p Praise Team	6:30p Finance Team	11a Older Folders	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:15a Prayer for Worship 8:30a Traditional Service 9:30a Drop-In Class 10:30a Contemporary Service 11:45a Coffee, Cinnamon Rolls and Conversations about Cancer Symptoms	1p Sewing Circle 6:30p Church Council		6:15p Praise Team	1p Women's Gathering	11a Older Folders	
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
Aug. 24 8:15a Prayer for Worship 8:30a Traditional Service 9:30a Drop-In Class 10:30a Contemporary Service 11:45a Hospitality Team 6:30p Mission presentation	1p Sewing Circle		6:15p Praise Team		11a Older Folders	
Aug. 31 8:15a Prayer for Worship 8:30a Traditional Service 9:30a Drop-In Class 10:30a Contemporary Service						

Evangel United Methodist Church
2645 North Broadway
Rochester, MN 55906

(Address Service Requested)

Evangel Church exists to love God, love others, and be
Christ's hands and feet in the world.

Sunday Schedule

8:30am — Traditional Service
9:30am—Drop-In Class (Room 224)
10:30am — Contemporary Service
(Children's Church offered at both services)



Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here!