

Parish Profile

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Adams, New York

Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Adams is a small parish located in rural Jefferson County, New York, about 60 miles north of Syracuse. Our church was founded in 1849 and has served God in our local community continuously for 174 years. One of our founders, Henry B. Whipple, became the first Episcopal bishop of Minnesota and was noted for his humanitarian efforts on behalf of Native Americans in the Midwest. He is the subject of a book titled “Lincoln’s Bishop: A President, a Priest and the Fate of 300 Dakota Sioux Warriors” by Gustav Niebuhr.

Adams Emmanuel has begun a search for a priest to serve our congregation on a half-time basis. We are an active congregation of committed Christians looking to serve God, each other and our community. Our motto is “Loving God, Serving People; Serving God, Loving People.”

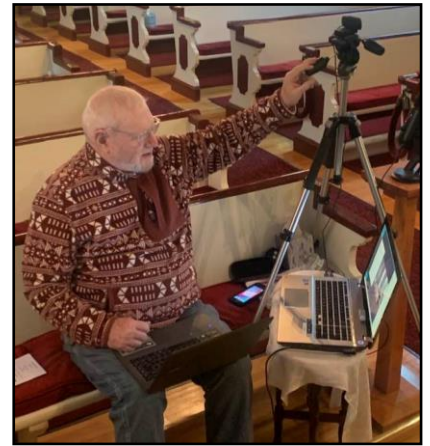
We have been blessed by the good work of many priests over the years, most recently by the ministry and friendship of our parish priest, the Rev. Jon F. Lavelle, for the past two years. His spiritual leadership renewed an already active parish, encouraged our lay ministries and strengthened congregants’ relationship with Jesus Christ.



Lay people are active participants in our services, leading Morning Prayer and serving as lay Eucharistic ministers, lectors and acolytes. For many years we have hosted an ecumenical men’s fellowship group and a women’s Bible study group. Emmanuel has faithful and excellent teachers of our children’s Sunday School, and lay people have led adult classes as well. Our lay Eucharistic visitors take communion to those who cannot attend church.

Members of Emmanuel coordinate many outreach ministries, including community dinners, Operation Christmas Child and Live More Ministries, an ecumenical women's fellowship organization. Emmanuel provides numerous Christmas stockings to underprivileged children.

Our services are filmed on Zoom for parishioners who cannot attend in person.



What are we looking for in a priest? We are seeking a passionate spiritual leader who is interested in getting to know us, learning our stories and joining our faith community. We look for skills that include biblical preaching and teaching and the ability to help people apply scriptural truths to their lives. We seek a priest who has a heart for pastoral care. We hope that our next pastor enjoys leading Bible studies and working with our lay leaders.



We look for a spiritual leader who has deep faith, enjoys being a priest, and is a people person. We seek someone who can organize services and Bible studies, work with children as well as adults, provide pastoral care and encourage lay participation in services.

We see ourselves as a warm, welcoming community of people excited about growing spiritually and adding new people to our congregation. We encourage you to contact us if you are interested in learning more about this position.

Our Church Community

Our people: *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."* – John 13:34



Emmanuel is a congregation of believers who love God and love their neighbors. Our desire is to follow Jesus and grow into the people he wants us to be. Parishioners care about one another, support one another and enjoy our fellowship together. We are involved in the local community. We welcome newcomers and visitors with open arms. We look for ways to build the Kingdom of God and serve the needs of his people. Emmanuel is ecumenical and works cooperatively with other churches in the community.

Emmanuel believes in the meaning of its name – “God with us.” Our worship is spirited, prayerful, reverent. We have about 35 families participating in church life and twice that number affiliated with the church. Our average attendance for 2023 was 35 plus 5-7 on Zoom. Our active members are diligent and involved in the life of the church. We are focused on spiritual growth and believe there is potential for numerical growth as well.

Emmanuel has an active and spirited children’s Sunday School with excellent teachers. We offer nursery care during Sunday services and Christian education for all ages. We love kids and seek ways to welcome all people, including young families, into our fellowship. Emmanuel is economically diverse.



Our parish is always looking for ways to serve the needs of our area – drug addiction, rural poverty, struggling families and other problems that touch our community. How the church can be an effective force for healing and good is a question that occupies us constantly.



Our ministries: *“There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.” – 1 Corinthians 12:5*

The parish: Lay Eucharistic ministers, readers and acolytes participate in every service. Lay people lead Morning Prayer. Lay Eucharistic visitors take communion, friendship and news to shut-ins and the ill and infirm. Music, both traditional and modern, is important to the parish.



Our choir, which has been singing at services for 35 years, is made up of faithful members. We have a devoted Altar Guild and cleaning staff who keep the church beautiful in all seasons.

Emmanuel’s wardens and Vestry view their work as a ministry and are dedicated to serving the parish. We have an excellent Vestry.

Retired priests contribute to our services – Father Jerry Wichelns, Father Wayne Storey and Mother Jackie Dowling.



Fellowship and outreach: Emmanuel lay people lead ecumenical groups: a men's fellowship Bible study and a women's Bible study. One of our members organizes events for Live More Ministries, a women's fellowship organization.

The church holds community dinners. One of our members works year-around for Operation Christmas Child, gathering items in all seasons and providing stockings of gifts to underprivileged children at Christmas.



Our parish organizes an Ecumenical Good Friday Service involving several churches of various denominations, their pastors, choirs and parishioners.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at the church three evenings per week. Besides benefitting from this service, AA members occasionally help the church with projects.

Emmanuel belongs to the South Jefferson Ecumenical Council and joins other churches to provide Vacation Bible School and participate in events such as a bike-riding fundraiser for the Rohde Center, our local food pantry.



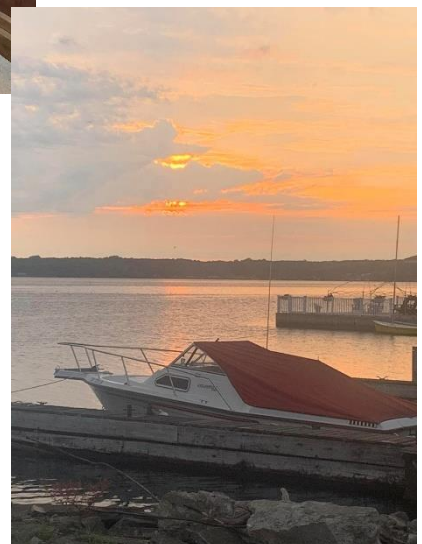
Our buildings: *"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"* – Psalm 122:1



Our buildings – Emmanuel church, the Rectory and St. Luke's-by-the-Lake, our summer chapel in Henderson Harbor – are in good shape. Emmanuel has completed major building projects recently and our chapel is scheduled for renovation next. One of our members designed and created a beautiful stained-glass window that adorns the front of the church building. We also updated the flower gardens in front of the church. Much work has been done in recent years to enhance the Rectory, including a full renovation of the front porch, ensuring that it is a pleasant place to live.



More on St. Luke's by the Lake: Emmanuel oversees a chapel on the shore of Lake Ontario in Henderson Harbor that provides a stunningly beautiful place to worship for parishioners and summer visitors alike. Services are held there every Sunday in July and August from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. The Ecumenical Council holds a Galilean Service there each summer as well. Emmanuel parishioners prepare the building and grounds at St. Luke's for these purposes. Our priests traditionally have led Holy Eucharist services at the chapel and Emmanuel lay people serve there each summer.



The Surrounding Community

“You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst forth into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.” – Isaiah 55:12

Adams: Adams is a village of about 2,000 people in Jefferson County of northern New York state. It is a small town in a rural area, friendly, family-oriented and community-minded with little crime. Dairy farming has been the staple industry here for years and Great Lakes Cheese in Adams is a major manufacturer. There is some logging locally and several small businesses. The area has good schools and, to some extent, the schools are community centers and major employers. Correctional facilities in the area also employ many people. The nearest city is Watertown, population 25,000, 15 miles to the north. Northeast of Watertown is Fort Drum, home of the U.S. Army’s 10th Mountain Division, the nation’s most-deployed soldiers. Expansion of the base in the last 40 years has enriched the local economy and added new people to the community. The base numbers more than 15,000 military service members and about 3,500 civilian personnel, with about 15,000 family members living on post or in local communities.

The North Country: Northern New York, called the “North Country” by residents, is a beautiful part of the world. To the west of Adams 10 miles is the eastern shore of Lake Ontario. The St. Lawrence River and the Thousand Islands region are 45 minutes north by car. To the east is the rugged Tug Hill Plateau, the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains which form the largest state park in the country. Gorgeous scenery can be found everywhere in our region which is blessed by lakes, rivers, fields, forests and mountain peaks. Tourism is another major industry. Recreational opportunities abound – hiking, camping, swimming, fishing, hunting, boating, snowmobiling, skiing, snowshoeing and horseback riding are some of the offerings.

There are many cultural offerings in the area, including community concert series in Adams, Henderson, Lowville, Sackets Harbor and Watertown; several summer music festivals, the Adams Cheddar Cheese Festival, the French Festival in Clayton, the North Country Goes Green Irish Festival and Bravo Italiano in Watertown. Community theater is alive and well here, with The Little Theatre of Watertown and Watertown Lyric Theater providing stage performances. Syracuse Stage is Central New York’s premier professional theater, providing high-quality theater for 50 years. Summer theater abounds in Canadian communities just across the border.

The Clayton Opera House offers many music concerts, particularly in summer and fall, drawing artists from throughout the country and world. The acclaimed Orchestra of Northern New York performs in Watertown, Potsdam and elsewhere in the region. Cultural opportunities are available as well in Syracuse, which hosts the Great New York State Fair. Canadian cities Kingston and Ottawa, Ontario, and Montreal,

accessible by car, offer many interesting venues. Indeed one of the advantages of our area is our friendly relations with our Canadian neighbors. In fact, our public television station is international, based in Watertown and Ottawa, Ontario.

There are several colleges in the region, including Jefferson Community College in Watertown, St. Lawrence University in Canton, Clarkson College in Potsdam and state university campuses in Oswego, Canton and Potsdam.

New York has more than 30 state parks in the region, including Wehle State Park, Westcott Beach State Park and Southwick Beach State Park.

In short, there is no end to cultural, educational and recreational opportunities in Northern New York.

High school sports are followed enthusiastically in local communities. Syracuse University basketball is a passion with many people. Watertown is home to the historic Red and Black semi-professional football club, the Watertown Wolves pro hockey team and the Watertown Rapids collegiate baseball squad. St. Lawrence University and Potsdam College field Division 1 hockey teams. Olympic athletes train for winter sports year-around in Lake Placid. In the summer, Syracuse is home to the Syracuse Mets, a Triple-A Minor League Baseball affiliate for the New York Yankees.

Museums: Fibonacci Art Gallery, Watertown; Thousand Islands Art Gallery, Clayton; Orion Art Gallery & Studio, Alexandria Bay; The Wild Center, natural history museum in Tupper Lake; Adirondack Experience: The Museum on Blue Mountain Lake, natural and cultural history of the region; Frederick Remington Art Museum, Ogdensburg; Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse; Munson, art institute in Utica;

Hungry? Local restaurants include: Beese's Café, Gram's Diner, Keitha's Kafe, Spook Hill Bar and Grill, Adams Country Club, Tin Pan Galley, Good Fellows, The Sackets Boathouse, The Barracks Inn, Art's Jug, The Fairgrounds Inn, Coleman's Corner and Pete's Trattoria, to name a few. Watertown has several chain restaurants.

Gratitude: We give thanks to God for this beautiful region that we live in, for all it has to offer, and for the people who make it so special. We highly recommend Northern New York as a wonderful place to live.

