

Emma

“Moving four hours away from home to come to Western four years ago was a very hard challenge for me,” said Emma as she was graduating recently from Western Illinois University. “Moving to somewhere where I knew no one was my worst nightmare as a shy freshman girl. I thought that everything would be different.”

“But I quickly found that at least one thing would remain the same,” she continued. “My parents brought me that first weekend to meet Pastor [Mike] Burdick and see the Student Center. After that first Sunday service, I was so happy to know that the thing that would remain the same is God’s steadfast love and care. Throughout these four years I have been able to receive God’s Word and Sacrament regularly. No matter what else was changing in my life, this place always felt like home.”

Emma added: “This place has also given me so many opportunities that I never thought would happen. Never did I think I would get the privilege of conducting a choir, brass, timpani, and organ on such a marvelous occasion as the 50th anniversary of the Student Center. This place has given me so many other opportunities as well such as singing regularly and serving in Lutheran Student Fellowship, but that 50th anniversary service will forever be one of my favorite memories.”

Overall, Emma said, “I find it fitting that my first educational setting in preschool was at an *Immanuel* Lutheran school, and I end my educational career (possibly) with an *Immanuel* Lutheran Church and Student Center. . . . I look forward to coming back and visiting as an alum.”

The Lord used your congregation’s gifts to the Lord through the Central Illinois District to support Immanuel Lutheran Church’s campus ministry in Macomb, for students like Emma. Thank you!

Please send contact information on your church’s college-bound youth to the District office for campus ministry referral!

“I thank my God . . . because of your partnership in the gospel” (Phil. 1:3-5).

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