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April 2025

Emanuel Lutheran Church



A Member of the New England Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
a "Reconciling In Christ" Congregation



Visitor

From the Pastor

The grass never sleeps.
Or the rose.
Nor does the lily have a secret eye that shuts until morning.

Jesus said, wait with me. But the disciples slept.

The cricket has such splendid fringe on its feet,
and it sings, have you noticed, with its whole body,
and heaven knows if it even sleeps.

Jesus said, wait with me. And maybe the stars did, maybe
the wind wound itself into a silver tree, and didn't move,
maybe
the lake far away, where once he walked as on a
blue pavement,
lay still and waited, wild awake.

Oh the dear bodies, slumped and eye-shut, that could not
keep that vigil, how they must have wept,
so utterly human, knowing this too
must be a part of the story.

— *Gethsemane*, written by Mary Oliver



On Sunday, April 13, we begin our Holy Week journey. Holy Week leads us through the last days of Jesus' life, his death, and the empty tomb on Easter morning. Holy Week invites us to listen to, participate in the story of Jesus. It's a story of love—full of the complexities of being human, the mysteries of our faith, and the promises we have from God.

Holy Week begins with *Palm Sunday*, where we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The crowds, waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna!" welcomed Jesus as the promised King. Yet, we are reminded that the kingdom Jesus came to establish was not one of political power but one of grace and forgiveness.

On *Maundy Thursday*, we celebrate the last meal Jesus had with his friends. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, meaning "command," reflecting Jesus' command to his disciples to love one another as he has loved them. Jesus will wash the feet of his disciples, instructing them to wash the feet of their neighbors. This call to serve one another in love is foundational to our lives as Christians, for the Eucharist is both a gift and a call to live out Christ's love in the world.

On *Good Friday*, we hear the story of the crucifixion of Jesus. In the shadow of the cross, we reflect on the profound mystery of salvation. Jesus bore the weight of our sin and shame, reconciling us to God. We are freed from sin and death, not because of our works, but because of Jesus.

continued on page 2

1

From the Pastor

2

Online Member Directory
Coffee Hours
Hartford Yard Goats Game

3

2025 Holy Week Schedule
Newcomers Brunch

4

Events and Items of Interest

5

April 2025 Calendar

6

February Snow Tubing—photos

7

Caring

8

FME Concert—Frisson Winds



Church Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday:
10 AM—2 PM

Member Directory, Coffee Hours, and Congregation Event

Holy Saturday is a time to ponder the silence of the tomb. The fear, grief, confusion, and uncertainty that gripped the disciples. It is a time to reflect on the tension between death and life, despair and hope...that our life of faith is one that holds space for both sorrow and joy.

Easter Sunday is a celebration of the empty tomb! The resurrection is the foundation of our hope. As the angel proclaimed to the women at the tomb, "He is not here; He has risen!" (Luke 24:6). We, too, are called to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection with joy and confidence.

As we journey through the events of this sacred week, we are reminded of the centrality of God's grace in our lives. May this Holy Week deepen your faith and strengthen your hope in the risen Christ. Let us walk together in the way of the cross, knowing that through Christ's death and resurrection, we are given the gift of life—life abundant.

Peace to you and yours,

Pastor Joanna Hertzog Betkoski



Special Offering Envelopes

Folks who contribute their offering online, and folks who do not receive offering envelopes do not receive the "Special Offering" envelopes that come in the box each year.

The Special Offering envelope for April is: EASTER

If you would like to give to this special offering, you can drop your check in the offering plate (or mail your check to the church office), made out to Emanuel Lutheran Church with the specific special offering listed on the memo line.



This is just a reminder for all members of Emanuel that we have an Online Member Pictorial Directory.

You can access the directory on your laptop, desktop computer or on your phone (through the *Instant Church Directory* app). You'll need to create an account using the email listed for your family's profile in the directory and create your own password.

To access the directory please go to: members.instantchurchdirectory.com. If you need assistance setting up your account, please email Anne: aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org



Coffee Hours

You can sign-up to host coffee hour in one of three ways:

- ♦ On the paper sign-up sheet in the narthex
- ♦ Through the online sign-up sheet:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1uFDDtVaSqBAxWhfcOeNICaNBfsM6oeYYcdt7IMOD_ZE/edit?usp=sharing
- ♦ Call or email Anne in the Church Office: 860-643-1193 or aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org



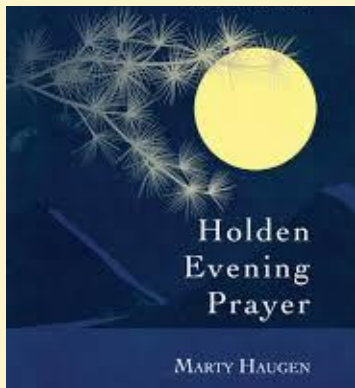
Congregation Event: Hartford Yard Goats Baseball Game

Sunday, May 18th at 1:10 PM at Dunkin Park, Hartford

A sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex. Sign-up with your name and the number of tickets you would like. Tickets are \$14. each, with a loaded value of \$2. to use toward concessions at the game. Emanuel will pay for any child aged 12 and under. There are 60 tickets available for the game against the Binghamton Rumble Ponies (NY Mets affiliation). Don't delay in signing up and mark your calendar! Seats are in left field. Bring your glove to catch a home run! Family and friends are welcome! Any questions, please contact Kathy Rusch (krusch2@comcast.net) or Diane Gawlinski (Gawlinski.diane@gmail.com)



2025 Holy Week Schedule, Newcomer's Brunch



Wednesdays in Lent

March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9

7:00 p.m. via Zoom with Concordia

Holden Evening Prayer

Thursdays in Lent

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10

7:10 p.m. in-person at Emanuel

Holden Evening Prayer

Marty Haugen wrote *Holden Evening Prayer* during the winter of 1985-86 during a musical residency at Holden Village. Holden Village is a remote wilderness community, rooted in the Lutheran tradition, that welcomes all people into the North Cascade Mountains, above Lake Chelan, Washington. Holden Evening Prayer is a simple Lutheran vespers service that follows traditional form while using contemporary and inclusive language. Evening Prayer gives thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God (Psalm 141.1). This service has become beloved by many. If you have never participated in Holden Evening Prayer, you'll want to join us during Lent. The service lasts about 20 minutes.

Palm Sunday Worship at Emanuel

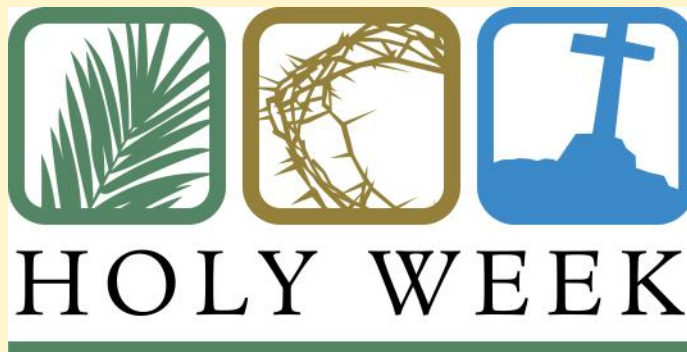
April 13 at 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship at Emanuel

April 17 at 7 p.m.

Good Friday Worship at Emanuel

April 18 at 7 p.m.



Easter Vigil at Concordia

April 19 at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship at Emanuel

April 20 at 10 a.m.

Please join us for the
Newcomer's Brunch

Sunday, April 6th at 11:30AM in Luther Hall

This is for anyone who is new to Emanuel and would like to learn more about Emanuel's ministries and get to know one another. It's an informal gathering where we'll share a light lunch and joyful conversation.

If you would like to attend or if you have questions, please contact Pastor Joanna at pastorjoanna@emanuelmanchester.org.



Events and Items of Interest

Healing Prayer Sundays are held on the first Sunday of every month at Emanuel.

On Healing Prayer Sundays we bless our prayer shawls. If you would like to bring one to someone in need, they are available to take after worship. Personal healing prayer is offered to people who wish to receive it at the altar immediately following the postlude.



Emanuel has an AED (Automated external defibrillator) which is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It's a sophisticated, yet also easy-to-use, medical device that can deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart reestablish an effective rhythm. **Our AED is located in the office hallway, just outside of the church office. Proceed down the ramp in the sanctuary, and the AED is on the wall directly in front of you.**

Emanuel's Church Office Hours

The Church Office is OPEN on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 AM—2 PM.

The Church Office is CLOSED on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If you need to come to the church outside of office hours, please contact Pastor Joanna at pastorjoanna@emanuelmanchester.org to make an appointment.

Ruth Circle Gathering

Tuesday, April 1st at 7 PM in Luther Hall

The congregation is invited to the program: *New Parish Nurse* presented by Donna Connolly.

Hostesses: Ann Cook, Carol Kohl, Marianne Wilcox.



Worship volunteers are needed for our Sunday morning 10 AM worship service.

We continue to need the following worship volunteers each Sunday: two Communion Assistants, one Lector, and four Ushers.

A sign-up link is emailed out weekly (if volunteers are needed). If you are able volunteer, please use the electronic sign-up. All Sundays through December 2025 are accessible through one link. If you have difficulty signing up for a particular Sunday, email Anne at ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org and let her know what date and what volunteer position you would like.

Women's Breakfast

Wednesday, April 16th at 9 AM

Cosmic Omelet, 485 Hartford Road, Manchester

Beginning this month, the Women's Breakfast group will gather at the Cosmic Omelet restaurant in Manchester. Please note the new time. The restaurant will issue separate checks for each individual attending the breakfast. All women from Emanuel are welcome!

If you would like to attend, a RSVP to Lynne Gustafson: cgustafson01@snet.net is **still required** by **MONDAY**, April 14th.



Weekly Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 10 AM in the library.

Mini Golf and Ice Cream at Fairways in South Windsor **Sunday, April 27th at 1 PM**

All ages are welcome to join us for mini golf at Fairways in South Windsor (75 Spielman Road, South Windsor, CT) on Sunday, April 27 at 1 PM. Meet at the course. After a round of min golf, if you would like, you can purchase ice cream or other treats from the snack bar.



April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 <i>Assisting Minister - Ben Hogue</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:30am Prepare Wisely: Estate Strategy Essentials (Thrivent program, Registration required) - LH 1:00pm Congregational Event: Jumping at Trampoline Park - Urban Air, 220 Hale Road, Manchester 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	31 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	1 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Ruth Circle Gathering: "New Parish Nurse Program" (Congregation is invited) - LH	2 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer with Concordia Lutheran Church on Zoom	3 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:10pm Holden Evening Prayer - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	4 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	5 1:30pm Milord Family Birthday Party - LH/YR
6 <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:30am Confirmation Class - Youth Room 11:30am Newcomer's Brunch - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	7 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	8 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom	9 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer with Concordia Lutheran Church on Zoom	10 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:10pm Holden Evening Prayer - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	11 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	12
13 <i>Assisting Minister - Kathy Rusch</i> <i>Children's Sermon during worship - No Sunday School</i> PALM/PASSION SUNDAY 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Worship Service at Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor	14 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting - LH	15 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED Visitor newsletter deadline	16 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 9:00am Women's Breakfast - Cosmic Omelet, 485 Hartford Road, Manchester	17 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED MAUNDY THURSDAY 10:00am Bible Study - Library 7:00pm Worship Service at Emanuel	18 OFFICE CLOSED - GOOD FRIDAY 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR 7:00pm Worship Service at Emanuel	19 EASTER VIGIL 7:00pm Worship Service at Concordia (40 Pitkin Street, Manchester)
20 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> <i>Children's Sermon during worship - No Sunday School</i> Easter Egg Hunt (for children up to age 10) after worship EASTER SUNDAY 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	21 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	22 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Council Meeting - LH 7:00pm Emanuel Housing Corp. Meeting - LH	23 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	24 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	25 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	26 7:00pm FME Chamber Music Concert Series - Frisson Winds (Rescheduled from 2/8/25)
27 <i>Assisting Minister - Ray Purtell</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:30am Confirmation Class - Youth Room 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	28 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter mailing 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	29 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Finance Committee meeting - Luther Hall and via Zoom	30 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	1 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	2 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	3 11:00am Memorial Service for Judy Anderson in the Sanctuary

For the most current calendar that updates in real time, please visit our website: emanuelmanchester.org and click on the "Latest News" tab where you will see the highlighted link to the MONTHLY CALENDAR.

Easter Egg Hunt—On Easter Sunday, April 20th, all children ages 10 and under are welcome to join our annual Easter Egg Hunt following worship. After the service please meet in the Sunday School Room for a story and crafts followed by an egg hunt in the Sanctuary.

Snow Tubing!



A group of families from Emanuel got together on Saturday, February 8th and went snow tubing at Powder Ridge Mountain Park & Resort in Middlefield, CT.

Caring

April Birthdays (Emanuel Members 75+ yrs.)

Linda Hempstead 4/2
Marilyn Stavnitsky 4/3
Ann-Linda Bray 4/8
Elsa Robinson 4/9
Margaret Gustafson 4/10
Randall Eastwood 4/13



Barbara Macdonald 4/16
Beverly Fuss 4/19
Barbara Harris 4/22
David Morsey 4/25
Marilyn Cummings 4/29

*Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members,
Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,076.53 to MACC Charities.
Your donation is incredibly important to us, especially at a time when our
economy finds many in our community more in need than ever before. Your
support helps ensure the continuity of our commitment to serving those who
need it most and strengthen the partnership that are breaking cycles of poverty.
We are truly blessed to have partners like you.*

*Many Blessings,
Shannon Baldassario, CEO MACC Charities*

Lost and Found

Emanuel Lutheran Church has a large "LOST and FOUND" box (pictured here) that is located in the vestibule outside of the Community Room/Chapel. It is stuffed full of clothing, travel coffee mugs, a insulated lunch bag, a couple of Christmas serving platters, stuffed animals, a child's purse, and the list goes on! If you have misplaced anything over the last (10 years!), please take a look through the box. All unclaimed items will be donated this summer to MACC's Community Threads Thrift Shoppe. Smaller items such as jewelry and keys are kept in the church office. Please connect with Anne in the church office or email her: aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org and let her know what particular, small item you are missing. If keys are not claimed, they will be thrown away this summer.



Emanuel's Rock Garden of Kindness continues to be a popular destination!

Our Kindness Rock Garden continues to make a difference in blessing the lives of the people passing by. Rocks are usually taken within a few days of being put out. If you can paint a few rocks and either place them in the garden or bring them to the Church Office, (where they will be treated with a protectant spray), we would be grateful. If you have any small, blank rocks at home that you could donate to be painted on, please bring them to the church office. Your kindness is appreciated!



*Thank you to **Diana McVicker** who supplies us with painted rocks on a regular basis.*



Emanuel Staff

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Berk Little and Kathy Rusch
Worship Support Specialists



FME

FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT EMANUEL
CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES 2024 - 2025

Frisson Winds



Come, enjoy
a virtuosic
ensemble
performance
featuring flute,
oboe,
clarinet and
bassoon.

RESCHEDULED
NEW DATE **Saturday**

April 26 at 7 pm

FREE ADMISSION

DONATIONS WELCOMED

Emanuel Lutheran Church

60 Church Street, Manchester, CT 06040

860 - 643-1193

FriendsOfMusicAtEmanuel@gmail.com

www.FriendsOfMusicAtEmanuel.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED