



60 Church Street
Manchester, CT 06040

(860) 643-1193

website: www.emanuelmanchester.org

April 2026

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

"Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning".

—Psalm 30:5

As followers of Jesus, we are people of both the cross and empty tomb.

On Maundy Thursday, we remember how Jesus gathered with his closest friends and shared a meal. He washed their feet and showed them that love, not power, marks his followers.

And yet, we do not stay there.

On Good Friday, we will sit at the foot of the cross and feel the weight of a world that is not as it should be. On Holy Saturday, we wait in the quiet filled with confusion, doubt, and uncertainty.

And yet, we do not stay there.

On Easter morning, we find the tomb empty and hear the Good News: Jesus has risen. He has risen indeed. Alleluia! Death does not have the final word. Love does. Even in the darkest moments, God is bringing new life.

The journey from Good Friday to Easter is our journey of faith. We are invited to trust that no place in our lives, no corner of our world, is beyond God's love.

So we sit with the grief of the cross and proclaim the promise of the resurrection: hope will not let us go.

Peace to you and yours,

Pastor Joanna



Lilly Foundation Clergy Renewal Grant Submitted

In March, Emanuel's application for a Clergy Renewal Grant through the Lilly Foundation was submitted. We will receive news of the decision on August 28. Thank you to Ray Purtell and Katie Kurlak who put in a lot of time and effort to help write and edit the application!

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

Stewardship Monthly Moment

Stewardship isn't just something we talk about in the fall, it's a year-round practice of discipleship!

This monthly reflection, written by members of Emanuel's Stewardship Committee, invites us to connect generosity, gratitude, and faith with the rhythms of our everyday lives and seasons.



Abundance and New Life

Easter doesn't arrive quietly. It comes with abundance: flowers, music, alleluias returning in full voice! Resurrection is not scarce; it overflows. Thanks be to God!

Stewardship, at its heart, is a response to that kind of life. Not obligation, not even duty, but gratitude. We give because we have first received: grace upon grace, hope where we didn't expect it, community that carries us. At Emanuel, we're seeing signs of new life all around including growing participation, deepening relationships, and a shared sense that God is doing something beautiful here. That doesn't happen by accident. It happens through people who show up and pitch in, people that care and give of themselves in all kinds of ways.

This Easter season, consider: Where do you see new life? And how might your own generosity, of time, presence, or resources, be a grateful response to the resurrection story?

SAVE THESE DATES & join us for Coffee Hours in May!

EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Deepening Our
WELCOME

COFFEE HOURS IN MAY

MAY 3
GENDER AND SEXUALITY 101

MAY 17
SCRIPTURE & SEXUALITY
WITH PASTOR JOANNA

MAY 31
MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!



Now that it is Spring, it's time to replenish the rocks in Emanuel's Rock Garden of Kindness!

Our Kindness Rock Garden makes a difference in blessing the lives of 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!



We welcomed 16 new members to Emanuel on Sunday, 3/22/26

They are: Nils, Cheryl and Eric Loftus; Rudy and Carol Croteau; John, Rebecca and John Bear Wilhelm; Brian and Kylee Goff; Andy and Pam Clark; Marilyn Labanowski; Susan Seyboth; and Jake and Elaine Auger.



The Great British Bakeoff was held at Emanuel on Saturday, 3/21/26

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.

Special Offering envelope for April: 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.

You may also give online through the secure donation page at www.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/1YKFVJbX8HdJsFGkRaQfvndhTMmffSyvDNqYHcs3sCAE/edit?usp=sharing>
- ♦ Call or email Anne in the Church Office: 860-643-1193 or aheinrich@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.

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 2026 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. If you would like to try something new, training is provided!

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

Everyone is welcome! Contact Pastor Joanna with questions or for more information.

Ruth Circle Gathering

Tuesday, April 7 at 7 PM—Luther Hall

The April program is: **MOSAIC** presented by Becca Piel. The congregation is invited to attend. *Hostesses: Marlene D'Addario, Ann Cook.*



Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC), is a Latinx/Latiné open and affirming ministry that welcomes all.

MNC holds worship in the Community Room at Emanuel on the **first Sunday of every month at 12 noon**. Everyone from Emanuel is invited to attend. All ages are welcome!



Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Beginning in April from 7:30—9 PM

If you are interested in attending or for more info. and details about the study, please contact Bea Santiago at MNCnuevacreacion@gmail.com

Save the Date...

Spring Property Clean-Up

Saturday, May 2 from 9 AM—noon

Outside on the grounds of Emanuel

If you are interested in helping out please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact Berk at blittle0602@gmail.com for more details. If you can help for a 1/2 hour or for the entire time, all help is welcomed! We would like to get a good idea of how many people are available to help, because without the help of the congregation, we'll need to hire someone and need enough time in advance to get the necessary work scheduled.

Save the Date...

Congregational Getaway Weekend

at Camp Calumet in NH

August 21- 23, 2026

We're having an intergenerational getaway weekend at Camp Calumet on August 21-23—our second one! The weekend will begin with Holden Evening prayer at 7 PM on Friday (it's ok if you'll be late!) and end with lunch on Sunday. We will have time to rest, explore the local area, swim, boat, worship and learn together. There will be time for adults to connect with one another and their faith and time for kids to hear the stories of God and God's people. Just ask anyone who went last year—it's fun!



Please sign up in the narthex if you're interested in going, fill out a registration form and return it to Pastor Joanna along with a \$100 deposit (check made out to *Emanuel Lutheran Church* with "Calumet Retreat" on the memo line).

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <i>Assisting Minister - Ray Purtell</i> SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY 10:00am Emanuel Sunday School - Sunday School Room 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH 4:00pm Christ Church Special Worship Service in the Sanctuary	30 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter mailing 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	31 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED	1 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am FME Board Meeting - LH 6:30pm The Hem Hangout - LH	2 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED MAUNDY THURSDAY 10:00am Bible Study - Library 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service at Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester	3 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY 8:30am ACT - LH/MR 7:00pm Good Friday Worship Service at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 60 Church Street, Manchester	4 EASTER VIGIL 7:00pm Easter Vigil Worship Service at Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester
5 <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> <i>Children's Sermon during worship - No Sunday School</i> EASTER SUNDAY 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 12:00pm Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) Worship Service - Community Room 1:00pm MNC Easter Brunch - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary	6 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	7 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 7:00pm Ruth Circle Gathering: "MOSAIC" (Congregation is invited) - LH	8 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 7:30pm Bible Study led by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) - LH	9 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	10 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am ACT - LH/MR	11 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room
12 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> <i>Pastor Bill White preaching and presiding</i> 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary	13 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	14 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED	15 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter deadline 7:30pm Bible Study led by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) - LH	16 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	17 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am ACT - LH/MR	18 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room
19 <i>Assisting Minister - Kathy Rusch</i> <i>Rev. Dr. David Grafton preaching and presiding</i> 10:00am Emanuel Sunday School - Sunday School Room 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary 2:00pm Worcester Renaissance Music Group Rehearsal - CR	20 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	21 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED	22 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 7:30pm Bible Study led by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) - LH	23 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	24 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am ACT - LH/MR	25 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room
26 <i>Assisting Minister - Adela Garmendia</i> Emanuel Youth Led Worship Service and Undie Sunday 10:00am Emanuel Sunday School - Sunday School Room 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary	27 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR 7:00pm Worship & Arts Meeting	28 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 7:00pm Emanuel Housing Corp. Meeting - LH	29 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter mailing 7:30pm Bible Study led by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) - LH	30 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	1 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am ACT - LH/MR	2 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room

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.

Archived copies of *Visitor* newsletters are available on our website under the password protected MEMBER ACCESS tab (pull down to "VISITOR NEWSLETTERS").



Heidi Marie Shaughnessy Baptism—3/8/26

Parents: Kevin and Erika Shaughnessy
Sponsors: Jonathan and Nicolle Frank

Nametags

Are you a member of Emanuel or attend worship on a regular basis? We would love to make you a magnetic nametag to wear on Sunday mornings for worship! If you don't already have one, or need a new one, please sign up on the sheet on the bookcase by the ramp or in the narthex.

You may also contact Kathy Rusch in person or by email: krusch2@comcast.net

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



Church Leadership Installation—3/1/26

THE HEM HANGOUT

New to Sewing?

Join us to learn how to sew anything from satchels to clothing or simply come join for community as we sew together.

Please bring functional equipment.

Working on a project?

First Wednesday of the Month.
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
60 Church St.
Manchester, CT 06040

Questions? Contact jagianinio@gmail.com

UNDIES

Sunday - APRIL 26

Help us collect an often overlooked item - underwear! We will be collecting **NEW** boxers, briefs, underwear of all sizes for men, women, children and Pull-Ups for toddlers; to be donated to MACC Charities on Youth Sunday, April 26!

Two large collection buckets are in the narthex.

Caring

April Birthdays (Emanuel Members 75+ yrs.)

Linda Hempstead 4/2
Marilyn Stavitsky 4/3
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 Friends,
My heartfelt thank you for the cards, notes and visits as I recover from my broken leg. I am doing well and home after two months in rehab.*

The loss of my sister is a huge blow, but the notes of sympathy have been a comfort.

I appreciate the walker, wheel chair and shower chair that Donna Connolly has provided for me to use.

I have been given a beautiful prayer shawl too. It's a blessing to have such wonderful support, thank you Emanuel so very much.

*Sincerely,
Linda Eckblom*

*Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members,
Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,086.03 to MACC Charities.*

Your support is helping drive our vision this year: building stronger communities by expanding access to essential resources, deepening collaborative partnerships, and creating pathways to stability for individuals and families facing economic hardship.

As we respond to growing needs across our community, your generosity fuels innovative solutions that not only meet immediate challenges but also advance long-term impact. Together, we are strengthening local organizations, empowering neighbors, and working to break cycles of poverty in our community.

We are deeply grateful to have partners like you standing with us as we move this mission forward.

*Many Blessings,
Shannon Baldassario—MACC CEO*

*Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your gifts during 2025 that were given to your synod, and received by the ELCA churchwide organization last month. Your gifts totaled \$6,223. Some of the funds were designated to ELCA World Hunger and others to Lutheran World Relief.*

Your gifts are a reminder that our work of faith and labor of love are not done alone. We give thanks for our shared work and our shared hope, which inspire ELCA churchwide ministries, in partnership with congregations and synods, to make God's love real in exciting and ever-changing ways.

Through your gifts, you join with the whole church in loving our neighbors and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thank you! May the God of all good gifts continue to work among you.

*In Christ, The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, Congregational Generosity*



Emanuel Staff (860) 643-1193

Pastor Joanna Hertzog Betkoski
pastorjoanna@emanuelmanchester.org

Anne Heinrich
Office Administrator
aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org

Jeff Sirois
Director of Music
jsirois@emanuelmanchester.org

Katie Kurlak
Director of Family Ministries
familyministry@emanuelmanchester.org

Donna Connolly
Parish Nurse
parishnurse@emanuelmanchester.org

Kathy Hatch
Property Supervisor
Khatch4@gmail.com

Barton Sattler
Treasurer
treasurer@emanuelmanchester.org

Gail McGrath and Kathy Rusch
Co-Financial Secretaries
financialsecretary@emanuelmanchester.org

Berk and Lisa Little
Worship Support Specialists



HOLY WEEK



Concordia Lutheran/Emanuel Lutheran/Ministerio Nueva Creación

April 2—Maundy Thursday at Concordia (40 Pitkin St., Manchester) — 7 PM

April 3—Good Friday at Emanuel (60 Church St., Manchester) — 7 PM

April 4—Easter Vigil at Concordia (40 Pitkin St., Manchester) — 7 PM

April 5—Easter Sunday at Emanuel (60 Church St., Manchester) — 10 AM
at Concordia (40 Pitkin St., Manchester) — 10 AM
Ministerio Nueva Creación (Community Room, 60 Church St.,
Manchester) — 12 noon

Brunch will be held in Luther Hall following MNC worship.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED