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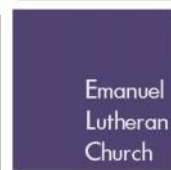
website: [www.emanuelmanchester.org](http://www.emanuelmanchester.org)

**August/September 2023**

# Emanuel Lutheran Church



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



# Visitor

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### Church Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday: 10 AM—4 PM  
Friday: 10 AM—2 PM

Archived copies of all 2022 & 2023  
Visitor newsletters are available  
on our website under the  
password protected  
MEMBER ACCESS tab (pull down to  
"VISITOR NEWSLETTERS").



*Praise the LORD!*  
*Praise God in his sanctuary;*  
*praise him in his mighty firmament!*  
*Praise him for his mighty deeds;*  
*praise him according to his surpassing greatness!*  
*Praise him with trumpet sound;*  
*praise him with lute and harp!*  
*Praise him with tambourine and dance;*  
*praise him with strings and pipe!*  
*Praise him with clanging cymbals;*  
*praise him with loud clashing cymbals!*  
*Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!*  
*Praise the LORD! —Psalm 150*



This summer, for the blessing in worship, we have sung *As You Go On Your Way*—a song that's familiar to many of you in the congregation. It has quickly become one of my favorite parts of worship. From the chancel, I am able to see all of you. I see how you hold the hand of your spouse or friend beside you. I see how you aren't looking at the bulletin because the words are familiar. I feel the collective deep breath that's taken and the blessing that surrounds us. It's a holy moment.

Worship can be filled with moments like that, and it may be a different moment for you than it is for me. That is the beautiful part of worshipping in community—we each feel holy moments in different ways.

Recently, we collected core values for the congregation. We had 72 people respond, and the top value was worship. Over the coming weeks, we will have conversations together to talk deeper about our value of worship. I look forward to hearing how worship shapes your faith life and how you encounter God and one another!

*Peace to you and yours,*  
*Pastor Joanna*



### **Blessing of your backpacks, Sunday, August 27th**

Bring your backpack or your work bag to 10 AM worship on Sunday, August 27th, and we will pray for God's blessings for a great school year!

The *Cards for Caring Team* needs your help!

We are in need of someone who would like to join this ministry of sending a few cards each month to our homebound members to let them know their friends at Emanuel are thinking of them so that they can feel connected to their church family. If you would be willing to be part of this ministry, please contact Nancy in the Church Office 860-643-1193, ext. 309 or [nwhiton@emanuelmanchester.org](mailto:nwhiton@emanuelmanchester.org).

# Ruth Circle Programs



## Ruth Circle Programs

**2023-2024**

*Unless otherwise noted, Programs are free and held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in Luther Hall.*

### September 5<sup>th</sup>

**Program: Christian School in Japan** presented by Steve and Jemi Rohrer

*This program is open to members of the congregation to attend.*

### October 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Program: Trip to Egypt** presented by Teri Ferron

### November 7<sup>th</sup>

**Program: Hole in the Wall Gang Camp** presented by Ellen Buus

### SATURDAY, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 AM

*(there is a cost to attend)*

**Christmas Luncheon at Evergreen Crossings,**

**900 Hemlock Avenue, South Windsor, CT**

Bring Layettes for MACC

### March 5<sup>th</sup>

**Program: Honey Bees** presented by Kent Schwendy

### SATURDAY, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

**Program: Artificial Intelligence** presented by Eric Brown

### May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

**Program: Potluck and Planning**

Ruth Circle is a group for adult women of all ages. All women are welcome to join! If you are interested in learning more about Ruth Circle and possibly becoming a member, you may contact Carol Kohl in person or by email: [ckohl@cox.net](mailto:ckohl@cox.net). You do not need to be a member of Ruth Circle to attend the programs.

# From the Parish Nurse

Lynne Gustafson

*This article is part four in a four part series on Religion and Health.*

## **History of reproductive rights in the US.**

Recently, I was asked to review the controversial movie, "Citizen Ruth." Ruth Stoops is a glue-sniffing, homeless woman. She has four children who are in the custody of her brother. She supports her glue-sniffing habit by stealing products from grocery or hardware stores. She has been arrested numerous times and now finds herself not only pregnant again, but in front of a very angry judge. This time, she is arrested for drug abuse, loitering and because she is pregnant, she is charged with "felony criminal endangerment" of the fetus. During her arraignment, the judge quietly tells her if she "takes care of the problem," he will reduce the charges.



When pro-lifers hear about her situation, they post her bond and take her into their home; but Ruth is unable to live up to their expectations. When the pro-choice activists find out about Ruth, they get in touch with her and offer her financial incentives if she will endorse their philosophy. Entered in to the mix is a televangelist who is a leader of the pro-life movement and offers her money to be sure that she champions their cause. Neither group really cares about Ruth's needs or wants, but to get their position across to the American people. This movie illustrates the divisive unbending culture war between these two extreme groups which continues to divide our nation.

However, at the founding of our nation, we were not this divisive on the issue of abortion and birth control. Abortion has existed since Europeans' colonialization. When historians reviewed the culture and society of the Puritans, they found that they were God-fearing people, lighthearted and very progressive when it came to sexual conduct as long it was within the marriage contract. They believed that marital sex was about love, pleasure, and communication; but premarital and extramarital sex was forbidden. However, during these times this rule was not enforced as evidenced by birth records that indicted that 40% of all first-time births were either "early" or out of wedlock.

They also believed that life begins when the mother experiences quickening. Quickening occurs between 14-26 weeks of gestation or within 4-6 months.

Since life began at quickening, women had the ability to choose when or if they would become mothers and it was the mother who determined when quickening happened. Abortion methods were attained through skilled midwives who used herbs to cause an abortion; surgical abortions were few and dangerous. Up into the mid 1800's, abortion was not illegal or controversial. In fact, several books were published for methods of accomplishing an abortion pre-quickening and methods of birth control were known to the colonists. But this all changed during the Victorian era.

During the Victorian era, Puritans were viewed as deeply religious, God-fearing people, who would not tolerate any sexual impropriety and would not approve of abortion or birth control. This image was perpetuated by a variety of factors but it was the publication of Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter" that compounded this perception. Many historians believe that this novel reflected more the Victorian era, rather than the colonial era.

Several incidents occurred during the Victorian age that gave rise to antiabortion laws. As mentioned, "The Scarlet Letter" advanced techniques in surgical abortions, more conservative physicians who questioned when life begins, increase in Roman Catholic immigration, and several sex scandals. In 1821, this led the State of Connecticut to be the first state to regulate abortions. Connecticut outlawed post-quickening abortions and forbade the use of "poisons" to induce post-quickening abortions. Yet abortion was not a crime during the first 4-6 months or until quickening occurred.

Physicians who were leading advocates of criminalizing abortion laws appear to be motivated at least in part by advanced medical knowledge that change their position on when life begins; doctors returning to the part of the Hippocratic Oath that focused on the need to defend the sanctity of life as an absolute, played a significant role in molding their opinion on abortion. The loudest and most famous was Horatio Storer who traveled around the country advocating antiabortion laws and outlawing any method of birth control. He, however, was most concerned about the low births among white women and he was concerned that minority races would out pace the white race. At this point in our history, only white women had the easiest access to abortion.

*continued on page 7*

## 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 made available to take after worship. Personal healing prayer is offered to people who wish to receive it at the altar immediately following the postlude.

### Coffee Hour

A sign up sheet is posted in the office hallway. Coffee Hour is held on Sundays in Luther Hall immediately following the 10 AM worship service. Are you willing to host? The host is responsible for making the coffee and providing the food, half & half, milk or cream as well as juice.

**The Church Office will be CLOSED on  
Friday, August 25th  
and Monday, September 4th.**

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

**If you are a Communion Assistant or Assisting Minister during Sunday morning worship, please note that face mask wearing is required when serving the communion elements.**

### Rally Day! Sunday, September 10th Bibles, picnic and games!

We hope you'll join us on Sunday, September 10th! During worship, at 10 AM, we'll be gifting Bibles to our 3-year olds and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. We'll have a picnic after worship outside, weather permitting, with yard games and Sunday School registration. If it rains, the picnic will be held in Luther Hall. It's going to be a lot of fun for all ages—join us!

*Thanks to Lynne Gustafson for sponsoring a Thrivent Action Team to assist with Rally Day expenses!*

### Women's Breakfast Wednesday, September 20th 8:30 AM at Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor

Cost per person is \$8.

An RSVP to Lynne Gustafson: [cgustafson01@snet.net](mailto:cgustafson01@snet.net) is required by Tuesday, September 19th.



### Emanuel's Rocks of Kindness Garden is a popular destination!

Our Kindness Garden continues to make a difference in blessing the lives of the people passing by the garden. If you can paint a few rocks and either place them in the garden or bring them to the Church Office, (where we'll treat them with a protectant spray and then we'll place them in the garden), we would be grateful. If you need some blank rocks, we still have a few in the Church Office. Thank you to **JaneMarie Gallette, Jeni Minicucci, Mary Earwaker, Maggie McKenzie and Diana McVicker** for painting rocks this summer! Also, thank you to **EVERYONE** else who may have painted rocks and put them in the Garden over the summer without bringing them to the Church Office first.

Your kindness is appreciated!



### 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 and willing to volunteer, please use the electronic sign up. All Sundays from now through August 2023 are accessible through the one link.

If you have difficulty signing up for a particular Sunday, Anne can sign you up. Just email Anne at [ahenrich@emanuelmanchester.org](mailto:ahenrich@emanuelmanchester.org) and let her know what date and what volunteer position you would like.

### *The Flower Chart is posted in the Office Hallway.*

Please sign up for Altar or Lectern Flowers to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. You may also call the Church Office at 860-643-1193 to check if a particular date is available.

Please be sure to fill out a flower order form (located next to the sign up sheet). *On the order form, you can even designate the type and/or color of flowers that you prefer in the arrangement!*

Leave the form for Anne in the Church Office. She will order the flowers and Park Hill Joyce will send the bill directly to your mailing address.

*Altar flowers are \$50 and Lectern flowers are \$35.*

## August 2023

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Monday    | Tuesday                                                | Wednesday                                                                                                       | Thursday                                   | Friday                                                    | Saturday  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>20</b><br><i>Assisting Minister - Ben Hogue</i><br>10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary<br>1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary                                                     | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b><br>7:00pm Emanuel Housing Corp. Meeting - LH | <b>23</b><br>10:00am FME Board Meeting - LH<br>11:00am Staff Meeting<br>7:00pm Worship & Arts Meeting - Library | <b>24</b><br>10:00am Bible Study - Library | <b>25</b><br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b><br>7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR | <b>26</b> |
| <b>27</b><br><i>Assisting Minister - Ray Purtell</i><br><i>Savannah Pereira Baptism during worship</i><br>10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary<br>1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>                                              | <b>30</b><br>11:00am Staff Meeting                                                                              | <b>31</b><br>10:00am Bible Study - Library | <b>1</b><br>7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR                          | <b>2</b>  |

## September 2023

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Monday                                              | Tuesday                                                | Wednesday                                                                                             | Thursday                                                                                                                                 | Friday                                                                  | Saturday                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>27</b><br><i>Assisting Minister - Ray Purtell</i><br><i>Savannah Pereira Baptism during worship</i><br>10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary<br>1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>28</b>                                           | <b>29</b>                                              | <b>30</b><br>11:00am Staff Meeting                                                                    | <b>31</b><br>10:00am Bible Study - Library                                                                                               | <b>1</b><br>7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR                                        | <b>2</b>                                      |
| <b>3</b><br><i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i><br><i>Healing Prayer following worship at the Altar</i><br>10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary<br>1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary                                                                                                                                                    | <b>4</b><br><b>OFFICE CLOSED - LABOR DAY</b>        | <b>5</b><br>7:00pm Ruth Circle Gathering - LH          | <b>6</b><br>11:00am Staff Meeting                                                                     | <b>7</b><br>10:00am Bible Study - Library<br>6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary<br>7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room  | <b>8</b><br>7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR                                        | <b>9</b>                                      |
| <b>10</b><br><i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i><br><i>Gift of Bibles to 3 Year Olds &amp; 3rd Graders during Worship</i><br><b>RALLY DAY</b><br>10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary<br>11:00am Church Picnic - outside on lawn<br>1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary<br>1:30pm Worship Service at Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor | <b>11</b><br>7:00pm Property Committee Meeting - LH | <b>12</b>                                              | <b>13</b><br>11:00am Staff Meeting                                                                    | <b>14</b><br>10:00am Bible Study - Library<br>6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary<br>7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room | <b>15</b><br><b>Visitor newsletter deadline</b><br>7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR | <b>16</b>                                     |
| <b>17</b><br><i>Assisting Minister - Kathy Rusch</i><br><i>Endowment Temple Talk during worship</i><br>10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room<br>10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary<br>1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary                                                                                                                              | <b>18</b>                                           | <b>19</b><br>7:00pm Council Meeting - LH               | <b>20</b><br>8:30am Women's Breakfast - Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor<br>11:00am Staff Meeting | <b>21</b><br>10:00am Bible Study - Library<br>6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary<br>7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room | <b>22</b><br>7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR                                       | <b>23</b><br>8:45am Music Together Class - CR |
| <b>24</b><br><i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i><br>10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room<br>10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary<br>11:30am Confirmation Class - Youth Room<br>1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary                                                                                                                              | <b>25</b><br>10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry - LH     | <b>26</b><br>7:00pm Emanuel Housing Corp. Meeting - LH | <b>27</b><br>11:00am Staff Meeting                                                                    | <b>28</b><br>10:00am Bible Study - Library<br>6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary<br>7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room | <b>29</b><br><b>Visitor newsletter mailing</b><br>7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR  | <b>30</b><br>8:45am Music Together Class - CR |

## Historical Notes

By Matt Heinrich

As we continue the discussion of the history of Emanuel Lutheran Church during the period when the Rev. C. Henry Anderson served as the pastor, we learn that in 1961, Emanuel celebrated the eightieth anniversary of its founding with a communion service and a confirmation reunion. The Rev. Knut Erickson who had been the pastor from 1932 - 1939 and Dr. O. Karl Olander attended and spoke at these events.

In 1962, several Lutheran church bodies merged, including the Augustana Synod, of which Emanuel had been a member for eighty years, combined with the United Lutheran Church, the Suomi Synod and the Danish Evangelical Church. The Constituting Convention was held on September 4 -5, 1962 and the New England Synod, with 144 congregations, became part of the Lutheran Church in America with Dr. O. Karl Olander as the first president.

At the Annual Meeting of the congregation on January 20, 1963, the new constitution was adopted by Emanuel and the deacons/trustees were reorganized as the Church Council with twenty-four members and seven standing committees.

During the 1960s, both nationally and locally there was an increased emphasis on social ministry. Emanuel formed a Committee on Social Ministry which met for the first time on April 23, 1963. This group included the pastor, members of the Church Council, and other members of the congregation, and it made a significant effort to reach out to the sick and others in need of assistance. It examined the social conditions in Manchester and worked to address significant problems. It included the Friendship Group for senior citizens, the Samaritan Fund to provide emergency assistance for individuals and instituted the recording of worship services and the delivery of those recordings to shut-ins.

As the congregation grew, Emanuel examined the need for an assistant pastor and at a special meeting on April 21, 1963, the congregation voted to extend a call to the Rev. Melvin Peterson who had served Emanuel as an intern in 1955-1956. He was called to serve in many roles with a special emphasis on the youth of the congregation. He remained at Emanuel until 1965 and in 1966 the Rev. Eric Gothberg, who had grown-up in Emanuel, was called to serve as the assistant pastor. Pastor Gothberg stayed until 1969 when he left for a parish in the Gales Ferry section of Ledyard, CT.

*Additional information about the history of Emanuel including more information about the construction and dedication of the Parish Building will be provided in subsequent issues of The Visitor. If you have questions or comments about the history of the Church or the extensive archive including newspaper articles, photographs and objects, please contact me. I can be reached at [fmheinrich73@gmail.com](mailto:fmheinrich73@gmail.com) or by telephone at the number in the Church Directory.*

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### ***Are you seeking a unique volunteer opportunity outside in the community of Manchester?***

Cycling Without Age Manchester has started at Charter Oak Park in Manchester, it's a rickshaw (e-bike), to help improve the loneliness and isolation that so many feel as a result of being widowed, never married, or the passing of their local family. Many are interested in enjoying the outdoors but find it difficult due to mobility issues. The simple act of movement can improve people's mood and well-being.



Michelle Puzzo, Executive Director of UR Community Cares said, "We started this program to improve the mental health of residents in the region, bring people together, and enjoy the beautiful weather."

"The concept of offering bike riding outings to the elderly and those with disabilities in a relaxing and comfortable front seat is a dream come true." Michelle is a physical therapist who has dreamt of this program for years. The principles of Cycling Without Age are: generosity, storytelling, and relationships, without age and slowness. The dream is to give as many people as possible the experience of piloting, being a passenger on the rickshaw, and going where they want to go, to provide freedom and visibility to elders.

Local volunteers called "pilots" or drivers will be trained and organized to provide this service, allowing residents to experience the parks and town of Manchester while celebrating the 2023 Bicentennial Celebration. For individuals who want to become pilots, donate for future expenses, or request a ride, please email [info@urcommunitycares.org](mailto:info@urcommunitycares.org) or call 860-430-4557.

*They are fundraising for an additional battery (\$1,000) and a shed (\$3000). The goal is to bring more people outside for activities, and help make the community more inclusive. Volunteering to cycle will allow the Cycling Without Age Manchester program to grow. Bringing joy, happiness, and smiles to more people across Hartford County will begin this summer and into the fall.*

## From the Parish Nurse (continued from page 3)

Lynne Gustafson

In 1873, Anthony Comstock created the New York Society of the Suppression of Vice. He influenced the US Congress to pass what has become the Comstock Law. This law made it illegal to deliver through the US mail any obscene, lewd, or lascivious material. It also prohibited producing or publishing information pertaining to the procurement of an abortion, methods of birth control and venereal diseases even to medical students. Then in 1957, 84 years later, this law was repealed in all states but Connecticut and Massachusetts. These two states kept the part of the law dealing with contraception. In 1965, *Griswold v Connecticut*, the US Supreme Court struck down the remaining contraception law so now married women could purchase contraception prescribed by a doctor but it was denied to unmarried women. In 1972, *Eisenstadt v. Baird*, the US Supreme Court expanded this right to unmarried women.

Then in 1973, *Roe v Wade* was argued before the US Supreme Court. Prior to this case, 30 states had laws prohibiting abortion without exception; 16 states banned abortion except in special circumstances (e.g., rape, incest, and the health of the mother); three states allowed residents to obtain an abortion and New York allowed abortion in general. In *Roe v Wade* the Supreme Court invalidated all these state laws and set guidelines for the availability of abortions. The Court also held that the right to privacy existed and included the right to have an abortion until viability. After that period a woman can obtain an abortion for health reasons as determined by her abortion doctor. The one central issue in this debate is: "When does life begin?"

Does life begin at conception or birth or somewhere in between? The Court declined to resolve this issue by writing: "We need not resolve this difficult question of when life begins. When those trained in the respective disciplines of medicine, philosophy, and theology are unable to arrive at a consensus, the judiciary at this point in the development of men's knowledge is not able to speculate as to the answer." The Court did point out that under English and American common law and statutes, "the unborn have never been recognized ... as persons in the whole sense and thus the fetuses are not legally entitled to the protection afforded by the right to life specifically enumerated in the Fourteenth Amendment. Rather than asserting that human life begins at any specific point, the Court declared that the state has a compelling interest in protecting potential life at the point of viability."

Since *Roe*, there have been several judicial decisions that altered some sections of it. In 1992, *Planned Parenthood v Casey*, the court ruled that in the third trimester or after 23 to 24 weeks of gestation, the states had the right to regulate abortions in case of the mother's health or the viability of the fetus and that a woman had the right to privacy if she was seeking an abortion and this right is protected under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution.

Then on December 1, 2021, the Supreme Court held oral arguments in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Thomas Dobbs is the State Health Officer for the Mississippi Department of Health. The question before the Court: "Whether all pre-viability prohibition on elective abortions is unconstitutional".

Then on June 24, 2022, the Court ruled in a 5-4 decision that the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; *Roe and Casey* are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives.

In *Roe v Wade*, that Court determined that the right to privacy was so broad that it could include the right to obtain an abortion; however, the *Dobbs* Court ruled that the Due Process Clause can guarantee some rights not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution like the right to an abortion, but it may be found only if the right is deeply rooted in the Nation's History or traditions. The Court emphasized that abortion was prohibited in three-quarters of the states when the Fourteenth Amendment was adopted and thirty states prohibited the procedure when *Roe* was adopted; therefore, the Fourteenth Amendment does not protect the right to an abortion.

This decision has further divided our nation. Protests from the pro-choice groups feel that a woman's right to choose is threatened. These groups feel that further rights such as gay rights to marry, interracial marriage, birth control products and even the discussion of reproduction are at risk. Those who see this as a victory and celebrated this decision are: the Christian Right, Antiabortion groups, the Roman Catholic Church including Pope Francis, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Southern Baptist Convention, the Life Ministry of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, and the Agudath Israel of America, a Haredi Orthodox Jewish organization.

Many American Jewish organizations opposed the decision. They cited support for abortion and religious freedom disagreeing on the beginning of human personhood. In the American Muslim world, reactions were mixed because views on abortion differ in the Islamic world; however, they voiced their concerns because this decision will curtail religious freedom because it reflects only the Christian Right's views and it may damage cultural and religious pluralism.

*continued on page 8*

## From the Parish Nurse (continued from page 7)

Lynne Gustafson

The mainline Protestant leaders were critical of the decision. They include the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, General Ministers of the United Church of Christ, and Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

On June 24, 2022, Bishop Eaton sent a letter to all ELCA churches. She acknowledged that many members of the church have different perspectives about the Court's Abortion ruling, but she states "that it is now the legal framework in which we now minister." She continues, "The Supreme Court has voted to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, removing federal constitutional protection for safe and legal abortion and leaving decisions about abortion law largely to the states." She refers to the 1991 Social Statement *Abortion*. She points out the complexity of this "new legal landscape" and that the Lutheran Social Statement provides the "moral framework for our church's communal discernment and ministry, holding in tension both the strong Christian presumption to preserve and protect all life as well as the complex moral situations in which pregnancy sometime occurs." The decision about what to do about a pregnancy is the moral responsibility of the individual and "this church and its ministers trust the person to make their decision in relationship-with God, self, partner, family, ministers and others."

Further in her letter she points out that: "Our church teaching holds that there are no exclusive rights in pregnancy. A pregnant person does not have an exclusive right to abort a fetus at all points during the pregnancy. A developing fetus does not have an exclusive right to be born. This church does not support abortion as a normative form of birth control but rather understands it as necessary in some morally responsible circumstances. This church does not condone late-term abortions except in extreme circumstances, which must be determined by the individual with their medical caregivers."

So, what can we do as a Christian Community? Her letter states that because we live in a new legal framework we can respond "by ministering to individuals who seek abortions; advocating for laws that provide free or affordable health care, child care, and education; providing and promoting sex education; continuing to be a community of discernment where thoughtful and diverse perspectives can be shared and heard; and advocating for state laws that provide legal, safe and affordable abortions, and against legislation that would outlaw abortion in all circumstances".

Her concluding statement: She wishes "to remind everyone that this church supports peaceful means of expression within a diverse society. Peaceful protest is a crucial element of civic engagement; violent protest is not, and this church reproves it. Likewise, this church is on record against hate speech. Let us be instruments for peace where there is none. Let us listen to one another. Let us serve the needs of neighbors in all the complexities life presents. God calls us to be *for* others, just as God in Christ is for us."

### Information for this article:

Wikipedia "Abortion in the United States".

US Constitution Annotated 14.S1.4.3. *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization* and Post *Dobbs* Doctrine.

Wikipedia "Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization"

ELCA Website "Bishop Eaton issues pastoral message on SOTUS ruling regarding *Roe v Wade*"



Emanuel has an AED (Automated external defibrillator) which is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It's a sophisticated, yet 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, exit, and you'll see it on the wall directly in front of you.**

### Emanuel's Emergency Procedures

Are you new to Emanuel or have you been around for a while and would like to refresh yourself on what steps to take if an emergency happens at Emanuel? A few years ago, Emanuel created *Emergency Procedures* for many different situations that may happen inside Emanuel's building. Anything from a fire, flood, electrical power outage, medical emergency, etc. is covered in the manual. If you would like to take a look through the procedure manual, you can find the blue and orange binders hanging on the wall in various areas of the church building.



If you have any questions, please contact Anne in the Church Office by email to: [aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org](mailto:aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org).

## MACC Charities

### MACC Charities—Household Starter Kits

MACC helps new homeowners get up and running with essential items for the home.

They provide dishes, crock pots, silverware, pots and pans, cooking utensils, towels, sheets, comforters, and more to each recipient based on items donated to MACC.

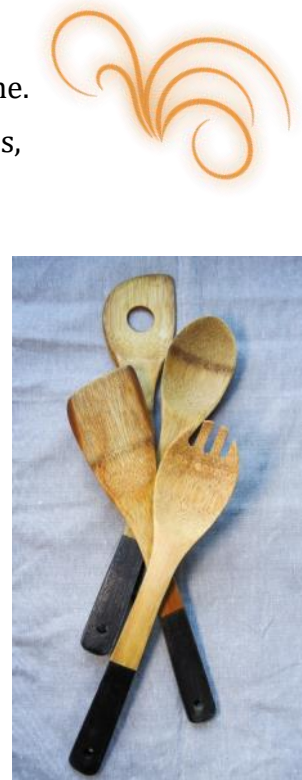
If you have new or gently used items that they can utilize in home starter kits, please consider donating them, as each kit depletes their limited inventory.

Here is a complete list of items they need:

**plates, bowls, cups/drinkware, coffee mugs, silverware, kitchen knives, coffee pot, crock pot, microwave, can opener, hand mixer, blender, food processor, pots and pans, cooking utensils, bakeware, measuring cups, kitchen towels, potholders, bath towels, washcloths, shower curtains, blankets, sheets, comforters.**



**Please call 860-647-0440  
for a convenient time  
to drop off Household  
Starter Kit items.**



MACC has updated its phone system to ensure quality communication throughout each department. The phone extensions also had to update to work with the new system. Below is a list of the new extensions.

Contact Us

Main Line: (860) 647-0440

Volunteer Coordinator:

(860) 647-8003 ext. 112

Community Emergency Food Pantry:

(860) 647-8003 ext. 128

Community Threads Thrift Shoppe:

(860) 647-8003 ext. 129

Community Outreach and Emergency Services:

(860) 647-8003 ext. 131

Community Kitchen:

(860) 647-8003 ext. 121

You can also call (860) 647-8003 for a list of department extensions.

If you do not know your parties extension, please call our Main Line (860) 647-0440.

*Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members - Emanuel Endowment Funds,*

*Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$500.00 to MACC Charities for the extended ministries of serving our community with their immediate basic needs. Thank you also for your invitation to attend the service with you all on June 25, 2023. It was a lovely service and I enjoyed meeting you all. I'm looking forward to a future visit with you.*

*We also want to thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,160.78 to MACC Charities as part of your monthly giving. Your gift comes at a crucial time economically.*

*Your donations help support the most basic emergency needs of food, clothing, & shelter in our communities - necessities that are hard to sustain during these challenging times economically. We know you have a lot of choices when it comes to donating and we are so grateful that you chose to donate to our cause of building partnerships to break cycles of poverty in our community. Thank you for our continued partnership!*

*Many Blessings,  
Shannon Baldassario – CEO, MACC Charities*

# Emanuel's Endowment Funds

By Kim Boerner-Mercier

## Why Does Emanuel Have Endowment Funds?

The Endowment Funds were established on February 1, 2008, after the minimum threshold of \$25,000 had been reached for each fund. These funds are intended as an opportunity to contribute to the future of various ministries within and beyond Emanuel. Endowment funds can be a way to memorialize a special person during your life or a way to endow a ministry with a portion of your remaining assets after you die.

Emanuel has four funds: Christian Education Endowment, Extended Ministries Endowment, Music Endowment, and Structural Preservation Endowment. Each year, a portion of the income from the endowments is distributed to support ministries and work within the Emanuel worshipping community and beyond our doors. This year, distributions were made to Calumet camperships, Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC) Charities, Creative Living Community of Connecticut (CLCC), planned hiring of vocalists and instrumentalists for the 2023 Advent and 2024 Easter services, and pipe replacement from the street to the Parish House.

The Endowment Committee is highlighting this ministry on Sunday, September 17th, with a Temple Talk during worship and a Coffee Hour in Luther Hall following the service. Berk Little, Chair of the Property Committee, will be sharing how the Structural Preservation Endowment Fund has supported a number of recent property undertakings. The coffee hour is in appreciation for the support of the Endowment Funds by many members of Emanuel.

There will be information in Luther Hall about the Endowment Funds and how to be part of gifts that "keep on giving". Please join us for refreshments and consider supporting our endowments.

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## Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be getting together for a gathering on **Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM in Luther Hall**. Everyone is invited to join us! We are so grateful to everyone who have continued to make prayer shawls over the summer. We look forward to seeing you in September!

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## Would you like to serve on Altar Guild?

Altar Guild members are those who set-up and clean up for Holy Communion. Training is offered and work is "behind the scenes" either Saturday mornings or Sunday after worship services.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact: Kim Boerner-Mercier: [johnkim4@aol.com](mailto:johnkim4@aol.com)

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## This is just a reminder for all members of Emanuel (new and old), that we have an Online Member Pictorial Directory.

You can access the directory on your laptop or 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](https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com). If you need assistance setting up your account, please email Anne: [ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org](mailto:ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org)

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## MACC Food Pantry needs:

|                    |                  |                    |                       |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Shampoo            | Instant potatoes | Mayonnaise         | Fresh fruit & veggies |
| Deodorant          | Chili            | Cake & Brownie mix | Dish detergent        |
| Razors             | Beef stew        | Paper towels       | Laundry Detergent     |
| Shaving cream      | Soup             | Sugar              | Baby wipes            |
| Body soap          | Canned veggies   | Flour              | Toilet paper          |
| Body wash (liquid) | Jelly            |                    |                       |



*Food donations are ALWAYS in great need. Donations can be dropped off at the Community Food Pantry, 460 Main Street in Manchester. Monday through Thursday 9 AM—4 PM and Friday 9 AM—2 PM or donations can be left in the designated baskets located in the Narthex at Emanuel on Sunday morning.*

# Caring

## August and September Birthdays

|                   |      |                                                                                   |                    |      |
|-------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------|
| Paul Berg         | 8/1  |  | Patricia Nelson    | 9/6  |
| Karen Davis       | 8/5  |                                                                                   | Nelson Robinson    | 9/6  |
| David Torstenson  | 8/12 |                                                                                   | John Reed          | 9/9  |
| Janet Bono        | 8/19 |                                                                                   | Judith Anderson    | 9/10 |
| Jean Reed         | 8/28 |                                                                                   | Dennise Carter     | 9/20 |
| *****             |      |                                                                                   |                    |      |
| Ida Anderson      | 9/2  |                                                                                   | Barbara Heinrich   | 9/20 |
| Marjorie Andersen | 9/3  |                                                                                   | Katherine Kalugira | 9/21 |
| Alfred Meier      | 9/6  |                                                                                   | Patricia Anderson  | 9/22 |
|                   |      |                                                                                   | Ann Dreisbach      | 9/27 |

## Pastoral Acts

### Funerals

Dennis McGuire

Melvin Hellstrom

Dear Emanuel,

Thank you so much for helping me pay for Camp Calumet! I've been having so much fun with my friends! Some of the fun things I've done are Swimming (I'm the highest level!), Song Writing, and tie-dye. Thanks again!

From, Molly Anderson

Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for helping to pay for my two weeks at Camp Calumet. I am so grateful and appreciate the opportunity to meet new friends and worship God in such a wonderful place. I have already met so many amazing people and I am so excited to meet even more. Thanks again!

Sincerely, Lucas Anderson

To My Friends at Emanuel Lutheran Church –

Thank you all for your love and cards, calls, prayers, and memorial gifts in memory of my husband, Ron. I have recently moved with the help of my three incredible children. If you would like my new address, please either call the church office (860-643-1193) or check the online member directory. I will be attending church and programs as often as I can.

Love, Ruth Lehrach

Congregation Members of Emanuel Lutheran Church –

Thank you so much for your gifts of \$2,569, including those to ELCA Good Gifts and to ELCA World Hunger, which were matched by our "Big Hunger Challenge, Bold Generous Response" campaign. Your gifts and others in the New England Synod enabled us to raise more than \$232,000. Through the ELCA World Hunger Program the lives of many hungry and impoverished people in the world, including the US, will be transformed.

On behalf of all the people who will be touched by your compassionate action, I thank you.

Doreen Rinas  
Co-Chairperson, NE Synod World Hunger Team

## Emanuel Staff

(860) 643-1193

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Co-Directors of Family Ministries  
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Berk Little and Kathy Rusch  
Worship Support Specialists





On Saturday, July 2, 2023, Town Historian, Susan Barlow led a history walk of Manchester's downtown churches as part of Manchester's Bicentennial Celebration. Emanuel was happy to open our doors to so many members of the community! Thank you Valerie Norris for serving as the building tour guide. We invite you to join us on Sunday morning at 10 AM for worship. ALL are WELCOME at Emanuel!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED