



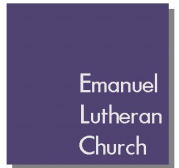
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December 2024

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

"...new life starts in the dark. Whether it is a seed in the ground, a baby in the womb, or Jesus in the tomb, it starts in the dark."

— Barbara Brown Taylor, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*

One of the things I find myself saying often is "it's really hard to wait." I'm not just talking about my four and eight-year-old—it is hard for adults to wait as well. It is hard to wait for an anticipated vacation or to wait for medical test results. In the darkness of winter, it is hard to wait for the longer days of the spring. On Sunday, December 1, Advent begins—the season of waiting and anticipation.

The majority of our Advent season will be spent as our days get shorter until the Winter Solstice on December 21—the shortest day of the year. As early as the Middle Ages, Christians used fire and light to represent Christ's coming into the world. The Advent wreath was developed a few centuries ago in Germany as a sign of the hopeful expectation Jesus' birth.

Advent is a season bathed in the tension between the darkness of our world and the great promise of the Light who is Christ. Advent invites us to remember that while the darkness may surround us—be it in our personal struggles, in the sorrow of the world, or in the uncertainties of our times—there is still an unshakable hope. That hope is not just a Christmas wish but a deep, abiding trust in the faithful love of God.

In the Gospel of John, we are told, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). This is the truth that gives us hope: the light of Christ is stronger than any darkness we may face. It is a light that does not flicker or fade, but a light that overcomes and transforms, and heals.

May this Advent be a time of renewal for each of us, a time to pause, to reflect, and to prepare for the great joy of Christ's coming into our world. And as we wait, may we be bearers of the light of Christ, shining with hope in a world that desperately needs it.

Peace to you and yours,

Pastor Joanna Hertzog Betkoski

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From the Pastor

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Calumet Retreat
Online Member Directory

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

CHRISTMAS EVE

Worship Services at Emanuel
11 AM and 4 PM

*Both Christmas Eve
services are being planned
with families in mind.*

*This year, both services
will include a Brass
Quintet and many
familiar Christmas hymns
and carols.*

Events and Items of Interest

ELCA Good Gifts

Are you looking for a gift giving option this Christmas that will help people and communities in need, not just for Christmas, but long-term? As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference. ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love. Browse and choose the gifts that mean the most to you or choose gifts to give in honor of friends & loved ones. Visit: <https://goodgifts.elca.org/all-gifts> to view and purchase gift options. You may also pick up a catalog in the narthex or from the bookcase by the ramp, to bring home with you and browse through the gifts and read about the needs of the communities that your gift will be helping.



Are you the Chairperson of a Committee at Emanuel?

If so, this is an early reminder that it's almost time to write your report for inclusion in Emanuel's 2024 annual report to the congregation! We would love to include your report this year to highlight the ministries of Emanuel.



Please submit your report by email to Anne Heinrich in the Church Office

(aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org), NO LATER THAN Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

Please do everything you can to meet this deadline.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Anne Heinrich in the Church Office. Thanks to each and every one of you for your leadership and enthusiasm towards the ministries at Emanuel!

Coffee Hours

Coffee Hour is held every Sunday following worship, unless otherwise noted in the bulletin or on the sign-up sheet. The person responsible for opening the building will make the coffee each week. If you are willing to bring goodies, cream and/or milk and will stay to help clean up afterward, please sign up to host the coffee hour. Any leftover food may also be used for the following week's coffee hour.

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

2025 Altar and Lectern Flowers

You can sign-up for Altar or Lectern Flowers to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special occasion.

You can sign-up for altar or lectern flowers in one of three ways:

- On the paper sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Church Office hallway. Please be sure to fill out a flower order form (located next to the sign-up sheet), and leave the form for Anne in the Church Office. *On the order form, you can even designate the type and/or color of flowers that you prefer in the arrangement.*
- Through the online sign-up sheet:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1N7YC_4StAVRRQGedU4_xUewyRK4VnsT1elyJR9GKLa4/edit?usp=sharing
- Call or email Anne in the Church Office: 860-643-1193 or aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org

Anne will order the flowers, and Park Hill Joyce will send the bill directly to your mailing address.

Altar flowers (two arrangements) are \$50 and the Lectern flowers (one arrangement) are \$35.

You may also sponsor the Sunday bulletins. Each Sunday is \$20. Please send payment to the Church Office.

You can sign-up for bulletins in the ways noted above. The online link is:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BtdtsMiKUnTFv_xz4Gh5iBsH71H0j4sF_JQ8P02_mik/edit?usp=sharing

Calumet Resident Camp

It's time to register for Calumet Resident Camp 2025

If your child is between the ages of 8-15, it is time to sign them up for a camp experience that will make this the best summer ever! Calumet offers one & two-week sessions at its overnight camp on the shores of Lake Ossipee in Freedom, NH. Please note that Calumet uses a tiered pricing system, plus a \$50 application fee.

To register or for more information, visit:

<https://calumet.org/summercamp/residentcamp>

Camper Referral discount: Recommend Calumet's Resident Camp to friends and family and receive \$100 off your fee for each first-time camper (non-sibling) who registers for camp based on your recommendation. Not only will you save money, but you will share the wonders of Calumet's overnight camp with others.

Once again, Emanuel is able to offer Camperships for children attending Calumet Resident Camp! To secure a Calumet Campership from Emanuel, please email Anne in the Church Office (ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org) along with your child (ren)'s name(s) and the following information.



In your email, please specify the rate that best applies to your family situation.

Rate 1: \$1,080/week (This rate reflects the true cost of camp.)

Rate 2: \$955/week (Rate for families for whom the full cost of camp is out of reach. Rate is subsidized by generous donors.)

Rate 3: \$830/week (This rate covers a portion of the true cost and is subsidized by generous donations by individuals and congregations.)

Then indicate the amount of campership that will meet your needs. Emanuel will apply the campership to the rate selected above.

☐ 100% ☐ 75% ☐ 50% ☐ 25%

Each camper's registration fee, \$50, will be covered by Emanuel and added to each campership award.

Don't delay! Let us know your plans now so that we can help send kids to camp. Please let us know your plans ASAP but not later than December 31st.

Help Send Our Kids to Camp!

Registration for summer camp at Calumet is underway. As an extension of our youth ministry, Emanuel has committed to provide camperships to help offset the cost of going to camp. In 2025, the full cost of a one week camp experience is \$1,080/week. We need your help and your generosity. **Please consider an additional donation to the Rev. Bill White Calumet Fund so that we have the monies needed to support our youth.**

In 2024, we sent six of our youth to overnight camp and one to Calumet's Day Camp. We awarded \$5,205 in camperships plus paid \$350 in registration fees, awarding a total of \$5,555 in assistance. We anticipate awarding this amount again this year and possibly more if additional kids decide to go to camp. That's a distinct possibility that we want to be prepared for.

Again, this year, we'll be taking a free will offering at the coffee hour preceding the annual meeting in January. All proceeds will support Calumet camperships for our families! **If, however, you are in a position to make a year-end charitable contribution at this time, there's no need to wait!** Simply make your gift in-person or online to Emanuel noting that it is to be placed in the Rev. Bill White Calumet Fund.

Thanks for supporting this important and worthwhile ministry. Your generosity makes a real difference in the development of our youth.

The Church Office will be CLOSED from December 24, 2024—January 2, 2025

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.



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, exit, and it is on the wall directly in front of you.**

Advent Devotional Booklets

Good News, Great Joy: Devotions for Advent and Christmas 2024-2025 are available to pick-up in the Narthex in preparation for the season of Advent which begins on December 1, 2024.

Cookies and Care Packages

Sunday, December 8th after worship in Luther Hall

This is a congregational event for all ages. We'll decorate cookies and assemble care packages for our homebound members. We'll also decorate the church and sanctuary Christmas tree!

Volunteers are needed to:

- Bake or Make items for the care packages
- Bake or Make cookies and icing for decorating
- Deliver the care packages

If you're willing to volunteer, please talk to Katie Kurlak or email Katie to: familyministry@emanuelmanchester.org. Also, if you are just planning to attend, please let Katie know so that there will be enough supplies for everyone.

Special Worship Services in December

Saint Lucia Processional—12/15/24 at 10 AM

Come to worship and hear the story of St. Lucia told by our Sunday School Children!

Lessons and Carols—12/29/24 at 10 AM

Come to worship the Sunday after Christmas for a fun and joyous service as we hear the story of Christmas and sing together!

Women's Breakfast

Wednesday, December 18th at 8:30 AM

Evergreen Crossings, RLC

900 Hemlock Avenue in South Windsor

Cost per person is \$8. An RSVP to Lynne Gustafson: cgustafson01@snet.net is required by Tuesday, December 17th.

Reminder to Members and Friends of Emanuel

Emanuel will be closing its financial books for the year on Tuesday, December 31, 2024. If you want your donation to be credited to your account and included on your giving statement for this year, **we will need to receive it by Monday, December 30th.** Any donations received after this date will be posted in 2025.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

WINTER IS COMING SOON

We want you to know that if we get a big storm or have severe weather conditions, Emanuel will have any cancellations of our Sunday worship service on the television on WVIT – NBC 30 and WFSB – CBS 3. So please check before you come. We want everyone to be safe.

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 and willing to volunteer, please use the electronic sign up. All Sundays from now through December 2024 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 ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org and let her know what date and what volunteer position you would like.

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> <i>Last Day to Order Poinsettias for Christmas Eve</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	2 CHURCH OFFICE - OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	3 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED	4 CHURCH OFFICE - OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	5 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	6 CHURCH OFFICE - OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	7 11:30am Ruth Circle Christmas Luncheon - TBD 3:00pm Piano Concert by Melody Fader - SA/LH
8 <i>Assisting Minister - Kathy Rusch</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:30am Congregational Event: Holiday Care Packages for Emanuel's Homebound Members - Classroom 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Worship Service at Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor	9 CHURCH OFFICE - OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting - LH	10 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED	11 CHURCH OFFICE - OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	12 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	13 CHURCH OFFICE - OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR 7:00pm Rehearsal for FME Concert - SA	14 7:00pm FME Chamber Music Concert Series - Voices of Concinnity
15 <i>Assisting Minister - Ray Purtell</i> <i>St. Lucia Sunday - Processional during worship</i> Visitor newsletter deadline 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:30am Confirmation Class - Youth Room 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	16 CHURCH OFFICE - OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	17 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Council Meeting - LH	18 CHURCH OFFICE - OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Women's Breakfast - Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor	19 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	20 CHURCH OFFICE - OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	21
22 <i>Assisting Minister - Ben Hogue</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	23 CHURCH OFFICE - OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter mailing 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	24 11 AM <i>Assisting Minister - Campfield Heinrich</i> 4 PM <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> <i>Children's Sermon during worship services</i> CHRISTMAS EVE CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 11:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 4:00pm Worship Service in the Sanctuary	25 CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED	26 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS - OFFICE CLOSED	27 CHRISTMAS WEEK - OFFICE CLOSED 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	28
29 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> <i>No Sunday School</i> 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	30 CHRISTMAS WEEK - OFFICE CLOSED 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	31 CHRISTMAS WEEK - OFFICE CLOSED CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY - OFFICE CLOSED	2 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	3	4

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.

A QR code has been added to the front cover of the bulletin, inside back cover of this newsletter, and on small cards placed in the pews of the sanctuary. If scanned, the code will take you directly to Emanuel's secure donation page. Once you are on the donation page, you can choose to designate your donation to a specific fund or the General Fund. We wanted to give people the option to easily donate online at any time. On the backside of the QR Code card in the pew is also a form you can fill out for prayer requests. You can drop the card in the offering plate and the church office and Pastor Joanna will receive your request.

Make A Joyful Noise!

MELODY AND COMPANY CHAMBER
SERIES PRESENTS:

THE FADER-GENDRON-HAAS TRIO

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 2024
3PM

EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
60 CHURCH STREET, MANCHESTER, CT

MUSIC OF BEETHOVEN, C.SCHUMANN
AND SCHUBERT

ADMISSION IS FREE!!! RECEPTION FOLLOWING



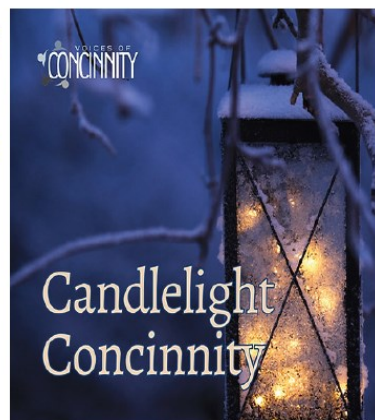
www.melodyfader.com

FME

FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT EMANUEL
CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES 2024 - 2025

Saturday, December 14
at 7 pm

Voices of Concinnity
presents
an evening of
luminescent music
to celebrate the
Christmas season



FREE ADMISSION

DONATIONS WELCOMED

Emanuel Lutheran Church

60 Church Street, Manchester, CT 06040

860 - 643-1193

FriendsofMusicatEmanuel@gmail.com

www.FriendsOfMusicAtEmanuel.org

Messiah Sing
*Part 1 & Hallelujah Chorus
Sunday, December 15
3:00 PM

FEATURING:
Elizabeth Miller
Susan McAdoo
Paul Patinka
Jermaine Woodard
Directed by Allan Conway

This event is free and open to the public, though donations are happily accepted to help defray costs. You are urged to bring your own score, if you have one, though some copies will be available to borrow.

United Congregational Church of Tolland, 45 Tolland Green
+860-875-4160
www.ucctolland.org

On Sunday, December 15th, at 3:00 PM, the United Congregational Church of Tolland is presenting a Messiah Sing. George Frederic Handel's celebrated oratorio is widely loved and acclaimed the world over. All singers are welcome to raise their varied voices in praise, as well as music lovers who prefer to celebrate the joyous holiday season by simply enjoying the familiar music. Professional soloists will be featured. We will sing Part One and the Hallelujah Chorus.

The event is free and open to the public; a free-will offering will be gratefully accepted. Singers are encouraged to bring their own score, but some scores will be available at the door as well. For more information, contact the UCC Tolland church office at (860) 875-4160.

Farmstand Holiday Hours
Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays
11 AM to 3 PM
November 29 - December 15
2645 Boston Tpke., Coventry

CREATIVE LIVING COMMUNITY of Connecticut

Shop local and make a "purchase with a purpose". Find a great selection of holiday gifts including ornaments, candles, candy, hand knit items, decorated wreaths, jewelry, honey, coffee, tea, wood crafts and more!

Caring

December Birthdays (Emanuel Members 75+ yrs.)

Vilma Anderson	12/5		Carol Kohl	12/25
Susan Plese	12/6		George Brown	12/26
Charles Sack	12/6		Michael Carroll	12/26

Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,131.69 to MACC Charities. For most, it is the difference between eating well and wondering where they will get their next meal. Your gift is needed and timely.

Over the last year we have seen an increase of 715 meals that were provided to our local community seniors. With an additional 2,828 community meals served. MACC served 31,238 meals to guests and 21,922 meals to the Manchester Senior Center. We housed 33 individuals and served 2,848 additional meals during our Cold Weather Sheltering.

This month I give thanks for unknown blessings. The best gift we can give is sharing ourselves with others.

Many Blessings, Shannon Baldasarrio, MACC CEO

Concordia, Emanuel, and Ministerio Nueva Creación



Midweek Advent Worship

Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesdays
December 4, 11, and 18
7:00-7:30 p.m.
Via Zoom



The Zoom Link and Dial-In Information will be disseminated each week beforehand.

Holden Evening Prayer was originally written during the winter of 1986 while the composer, Marty Haugen, was at Holden Village in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington State. With the exception of the lessons and a couple of prayers, the majority of the liturgy is sung. The liturgy lasts about one-half hour.

While it may be used at any time during the church year, it is especially appropriate during Advent because of the Magnificat included in the liturgy.

Archived copies of 2022, 2023 & 2024 Visitor newsletters are available on our website: emanuelmanchester.org, under the password protected MEMBER ACCESS tab (pull down to "VISITOR NEWSLETTERS").

Seasonal Sharing

The "little white church" will be out in the Narthex every Sunday morning during the month of December to collect monetary donations to benefit Emanuel's Seasonal Sharing program.

Funds collected will be used to help offset the cost of providing grocery and department store gift cards for MACC and Head Start families for Christmas.



Emanuel Staff

(860) 643-1193

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Barton Sattler
Treasurer
treasurer@emanuelmanchester.org

Jodi Eskin
Financial Secretary
jeskin67@hotmail.com

Berk Little and Kathy Rusch
Worship Support Specialists



Many members of Emanuel attended the Congregation Retreat at Camp Calumet in New Hampshire on the weekend of November 1 – 3, 2024. A great time was had by all. Another retreat is being planned for 2025 and we would love to have even more people of ALL AGES from Emanuel join us! If you'd like to view a full gallery of over 100 photos from the weekend, please visit the password protected MEMBER ACCESS page on our website: emanuelmanchester.org. (pull down to "CALUMET RETREAT PHOTOS—NOV. 2024").

If you have any issues accessing the photo gallery, please email:
aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org



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 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. If you need assistance setting up your account, please email Anne: aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

