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February 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

"Hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos life is being found, in you
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust."

—*Beautiful Things*, Michael Gungor

Lent is a time to acknowledge our brokenness—those pieces of us we try to hide from others, those ways we know we have messed up and those things that are unknown. It is also a time to be still—to allow for reflection and repentance.

Lent reminds me of the Japanese artform, that takes the broken pieces of pottery back together with gold, called kintsugi. It's the idea that the imperfects and flaws create an even stronger and more beautiful piece of art. It highlights that the broken pieces—the scars—are a part of the design.

As we enter into Lent this February, on Valentine's Day, you will see broken pieces of a flower pot in the sanctuary. Each Sunday in Lent, those pieces of the flower pot will come together using the kintsugi technique. I hope it is a reminder of how God can take our brokenness and create beauty.

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

Gratitude for Christmas Gift

A note of deep thanks for the incredibly generous gift from the congregation. It is deeply appreciated. Giving thanks to God for all of you in this new year and for the ways we do ministry together!

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Join us as we begin Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 14th with worship at Emanuel at 7 PM.

We will also have the opportunity for individual prayer and ashes from 11AM to 1PM in Emanuel's sanctuary.



Creative Living Community of CT (CLCC) will be selling eggs and a variety of microgreens in Luther Hall during Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 11th, following worship.

The eggs and microgreens are first come, first served. A dozen eggs is \$5.00 and a package of microgreens is \$5.00.



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FME Concert—Collective Brass

Lutheran Swag In the Street

By Campfield Heinrich

South United Methodist Church, Manchester - Contemporary service
November 26, 2023

Last month I wrote about my experience attending an LDS (Mormon) church, and how upon leaving that service I felt something lacking that I usually felt from a worship experience. Having looked around for a church to attend this Sunday, before I had settled on the Mormon church, I had come across a contemporary service South United Methodist offered late Sunday morning in their café. A casual and more condensed service than their traditional Sunday morning worship, this service was more similar to what I typically thought of a church service as being, compared to what I had experienced earlier that morning. This casual service saw worshippers seated around tables drinking coffee and eating pastries, a worship band led by a youth pastor provided the music, and there was a series of readings, prayers and a sermon delivered by the church's lead pastor. While having a quite casual style, the love of Christ could clearly be seen filling that room, and you could tell everyone in attendance was enthusiastic to be there. The community was immensely welcoming and there were many folks who enjoyed talking with me about the journey I was embarking on visiting different churches, as well as my discernment and the beginning of my seminary education. I enjoyed conversation with the young youth pastor at the church, who had recently finished his MDiv himself, about his experience in seminary and ministries he was currently involved in at the church. Before leaving, he told me he would be holding me in prayer as I began embarking on my seminary journey over the next few years. It's safe to say this church visit was meaningful and many of the conversations I had there contributed positively to my ongoing discernment.



God's Peace, Campfield Heinrich

Soups & Songs

Featuring: Rev. Bill White, Linda Jackson & Friends

A Fellowship Fundraiser to Benefit Emanuel's Seminarian Fund

Date: Sunday, February 18, 2024 (Snow date: Sunday, February 25)

Time: 11:30 AM (immediately following worship)

Location: Luther Hall

Emanuel's own Linda Jackson & Bill White and friends will lead the congregation in a potpourri of familiar and fun songs and hymns on guitar that are sure to please a wide variety of musical tastes. The family friendly event will feature songs that everyone can sing and may include Christian music & hymns, oldies but goodies from the 60s and 70s, and selections that are kid friendly. The focus of the event is fun and fellowship while breaking bread (literally) as we sample a variety of homemade soups and artisan breads. Gluten free and vegetarian options will be available. A free will offering will be taken and special offerings can also be made in worship; all to support the Seminarian Fund.



Important Message for Thrivent Members...

If you designated your 2023 Thrivent Choice Dollars BEFORE January 1, 2024, please check your Thrivent account because you may have additional Choice Dollars that accrued in the last month or two of 2023. You don't want to leave any Choice Dollars behind and miss out on donating to a chosen non-profit organization. All 2023 Choice Dollars need to be directed by March 31, 2024.

If you have any questions or need help designating your Choice Dollar, please contact Ray Purtell at purt1015@gmail.com



2023 Epiphany Star Word Stories

I had heard of congregations and friends participating in the 'Epiphany Star Word' exercise before, but it wasn't until coming to Emanuel that I participated in it myself. I was eager to pull a star and let it guide me throughout the year and was also eager to find out what star word Marshall had drawn, as well. My star word bore "Contentment" while his star read "Adventure". A peculiar pairing—especially considering my love of exploration and being on the go and Marshall's inclination of focus and intention. I remember thinking, "This is the Spirit's invitation. Let her do what she does best!"



As 2023 unfolded, our stars served as silent companions, prompting us to seek—and notice—the presence of the Divine in unexpected places. We taped our stars in a cupboard we use every day so that we would have a daily reminder to lean into Contentment and Adventure. My word guided my prayers, especially as we were still finding our way in our new town, continuing the search for a new home, and building a new community. The invitation of Contentment allowed me to trust in God's plan, not my own, and to focus on peace of the 'now' rather than dwell in the curiosity of 'what's next'. Leaning into Contentment made way for adventure and surprises - the purchase of a new home, new friends, a vacation out of the country, yet it also allowed me to savor simple joys and everyday blessings.

The beauty of this exercise lay in its simplicity; I really had no grand expectations, only gentle encouragement to be attuned to the subtle workings of the Spirit. I often thought of others who participated in the exercise, both from Emanuel and beyond, and how God might be working through their Star Word. Marshall and I enjoyed checking in with each other about our Star Words and would share what we had been noticing. As the year came to a close and I packed away my 2023 star with the Christmas decorations, I shared a simple prayer of gratitude for the gift of this exercise and for my word. How blessed are we to have a God who offers us simple invitations, receives our prayers, and accompanies us through the contentment and adventures of life?

—Ben Hogue

When I took my star, two were stuck together. The first was "Discernment", the second "Forgiveness." Discernment stood out more this year....first and foremost God helped us discern that Emanuel was the place we should be. I Don't think I was truly ready in March, but by June we both were ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN Emanuel was where God wanted us to be for weekly worship. Also, for me, discerning how to best help people (What and How God wanted me to—with money, or helping set up an apartment or attend a meeting or make a purchase for a client, water plants/get mail, or just provide encouragement), and when to NOT HELP and take care of MYSELF. Even this fall needed to discern whether or not to return to choirs. What would be the best thing for me to do. THAT was a hard choice.

Forgiveness kind of went along with Discernment (which is why they were probably stuck together initially!). Deciding what was really important, especially when people were impatient or hurtful, and learning to let go (discerning how it would affect me to hold a grudge or keep thinking about a slight) and forgive. I needed to practice patience and Discernment in order to forgive.

Anyway, carried my words in my purse all year, and that's how they affected me this year.

—JaneMarie Gallette

Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be getting together for a gathering on Monday, February 5th, at 10:00 AM in Luther Hall. Everyone is invited to join us!

We are so grateful to everyone who continues to make prayer shawls.

We look forward to seeing you in February!



WINTER IS HERE

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; WFSB – CBS 3; and WTNH – ABC 8, and on the church's voicemail greeting. So please check before you come. We want everyone to be safe.

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 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.



Fastnacht Dinner

With Traditional German Fare

Save the Date!

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Concordia Lutheran Church
40 Pitkin Street, Manchester

Social hour 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM

Cheese/crackers
Beer and wine

Dinner 12:30 PM

Roast Pork, German Potato Salad,
Red Cabbage, Salad, Applesauce, Dessert

Suggested Donation: \$14.00 per person

Please submit the reservation form (copies are available in the narthex), to Emanuel's church office by **Sunday, February 4, 2024**.

Payment/Suggested Donation should be made at the door, not in advance.

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

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

Women's Breakfast

Wednesday, February 21 at 8:30 AM

Evergreen Crossings, 900 Hemlock Avenue in South Windsor

Cost per person is \$8.

An RSVP to Lynne Gustafson: cgustafson01@snet.net is required by Tuesday, February 20th.

Church Office Hours:

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

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 June 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 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.

You can sign up for Altar or Lectern Flowers to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. *Please note: We do not have flowers in the sanctuary on Sundays during Lent.* 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.

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	29	30	31 11:00am Staff Meeting	1 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	2 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	3 8:00am CLCC Retreat - LH 9:00am Music Together Class - CR
4 <i>Assisting Minister - Kathy Rusch</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	5 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry - LH	6	7 11:00am Staff Meeting	8 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	9 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	10 9:00am Music Together Class - CR 7:00pm FME Chamber Music Concert Series - The Collective Brass
11 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:00am CLCC sale of eggs & microgreens in Luther Hall 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Worship Service at Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor	12 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting - LH	13	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 11:00am Individual Prayer & Ashes in the Sanctuary 7:00pm Worship Service	15 Visitor newsletter deadline 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	16 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	17 9:00am Music Together Class - CR
18 <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> <i>Children's Sermon during Worship Service</i> 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:30am Soups and Songs (Seminarian Fund fundraiser) - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	19 CHP - Winter Break PRESIDENTS' DAY - OFFICE CLOSED	20 CHP - Winter Break 7:00pm Council Meeting - via Zoom	21 CHP - Winter Break 8:30am Women's Breakfast - Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor 11:00am Staff Meeting	22 CHP - Winter Break 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	23 CHP - Winter Break 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	24 9:00am Music Together Class - CR
25 <i>Assisting Minister - Kathy Rusch</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:30am SNOWDATE: Soups and Songs (Seminarian Fund fundraiser) - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	26	27 Visitor newsletter mailing 7:00pm Emanuel Housing Corp. Meeting - LH	28 11:00am Staff Meeting	29 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	1 <i>Confirmation Retreat at Camp Calumet</i> 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	2 <i>Confirmation Retreat at Camp Calumet</i> 9:00am Music Together Class - CR

2024 NE Synod Bishop Election—Update

As promised last month, we are releasing the synod profile and bishop's job description that were compiled by the Profile Team.

The Synod Profile

In the summer of 2023, over 600 rostered and lay leaders completed the Landscape, a synodical assessment tool, administered by Holy Cow Consultants.

The results are the basis for the Synod Profile. It includes the following sections:

- Future Priorities for the New England Synod
- Other Considerations for our Next Bishop
- New England Synod by the Numbers

Bishop's Job Description

This document was composed with information from the synod constitution that defines the roles and responsibilities of the synod bishop.



These documents may be found on the synod website <https://www.nelutherans.org/bishopelection>, in both English, Spanish, and plain text versions to allow them to be accessed by as wide an audience as possible.

Later January, we will be releasing statements from the synod's key ministries outlining the work in which their ministry is involved and the role they see it playing in the future of the synod.

February 1 - Pre-identification Process Opens

A form will be made available by which individuals may submit the name of a rostered minister for consideration; individuals may also submit their own name.

February 29 - Pre-identification Process Closes

At midnight on February 29, submissions will be closed.

As a reminder, all of this information as well as the overall process and timeline are available on the synod webpage dedicated to the election, <https://www.nelutherans.org/bishopelection>

Questions may be addressed to the bishop election team via email to bishopelection@nesynod.org.

The Souper Bowl of Caring kicks off on Sunday, February 11th!

After worship on February 11, look for Sunday School children at each exit of the Sanctuary. They will be holding large soup pots to collect your donations.

We then invite you to support the Souper Bowl of Caring during the entire month of February!

There are four different ways that you can donate:

- 1) You can easily make a donation online on our website: emanuelmanchester.org/donate.
- 2) You may mail a check to the Church Office at 60 Church Street, Manchester, CT 06040.
- 3) You may stop by the church and drop your donation in the mail slot in the door by the ramp.
- 4) You may drop your donation in the offering plate on any Sunday morning during the month.

All donations will support MACC Charities in Manchester.



Caring

February Birthdays (Emanuel Members 75+ yrs.)

Erika Meier	2/3
Rodney Andersen	2/8
Mary Reuter	2/20
Matthew Heinrich	2/27



Pastoral Acts

Memorial Service
Albert Henrikson

“Gathered Into One” Lenten Devotionals are available to pick up in the Narthex.

Lent begins on February 14th.



Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your generous gift of \$500! Your leadership and partnership make a tremendous impact on ReconcilingWorks.

Blessings,
Aubrey Thonvold, Executive Director of ReconcilingWorks

Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$2,241.28 to MACC Charities as your monthly donation for November and December. Your continued partnership helps to unite the community and bridge some of the social and economic challenges we face today. As we reflect over this last year, MACC realizes its greatest strength comes from the support and partnership of people like you. People who are passionate about creating a community where everyone feels they belong. We are fifty-one years strong! MACC has always stood by the belief that while change will continue to be constant, so with the goodwill and the determination of what MACC believes works to continue building partnerships to break cycles of poverty in our community. Cheers to a New Year!

Many Blessings,
Shannon Baldassario – CEO of MACC

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hours can only be held on Sundays if someone signs up to host. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the NARTHEX. Coffee Hour is held on Sundays in Luther Hall immediately following the 10 AM worship service. The host is responsible for making the coffee and providing the food, half & half, milk, or cream as well as juice.



Emanuel Staff

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Berk Little and Kathy Rusch
Worship Support Specialists



FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT EMANUEL
CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES 2023 - 2024

Collective Brass



Talented,
energetic and
passionate,
these musicians
inspire audiences
with virtuosic,
emotion-filled
performances.

**Saturday
February 10, 2024
at 7 pm**

The musicians
serve as active
members of
the US Military
Academy Band
at West Point.

Emanuel Lutheran Church

60 Church Street
Manchester, CT
860-643-1193

FREE ADMISSION

DONATIONS APPRECIATED

FriendsOfMusicAtEmanuel@gmail.com

www.FriendsOfMusicAtEmanuel.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED