



60 Church Street
Manchester, CT 06040
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website: www.emanuelmanchester.org

February 2025

Emanuel Lutheran Church



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



Visitor

From the Pastor

"Prayer, according to Brother David, is waking up to the presence of God no matter where I am or what I am doing. When I am fully alert to whatever or whoever is right in front of me; when I am electrically aware of the tremendous gift of being alive; when I am able to give myself wholly to the moment I am in, then I am in prayer. Prayer is happening, and it is not necessarily something that I am doing. God is happening, and I am lucky enough to know that I am in The Midst."

— **Barbara Brown Taylor, An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith**

So often, I find myself in the trap that prayer is sitting, hands folded, in the quiet. Which means, when it's hard to find any quiet, I feel as if I am not living prayerfully. It's in those moments that I go back to Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *An Altar in the World*. She reminds us that prayer is not limited to the quiet moments or the formal ritual of worship. In fact, the very act of prayer is woven into our everyday. Prayer is a state of being—a constant awareness of God's presence in the world and in our lives. It is not confined to a posture of kneeling or the act of reciting specific words. Rather, prayer is a way of living, a moment-to-moment attentiveness to God's activity in and around us.

What if, instead, prayer is a matter of being fully present to whatever we are doing—whether it's folding laundry, baking blueberry muffins, walking through the park, or even dealing with a difficult situation at work? When we are fully awake to the moment—whether it's the smile of a loved one, the sound of birds in the morning, the warmth of sunlight on our face, or a conversation with a friend that connects us—God is present. These are moments when prayer is not something we are doing, but something happening in us, around us, and through us.

Let us remember that prayer is not confined to particular moments. It is a continual waking up to God's presence, every day, no matter how simple or complex. Let us be aware that we are always in the midst of God.

Peace to you and yours,

Pastor Joanna

CLCC Winter Celebration

Saturday, February 15, 2025 from 6:30 - 9:30 PM
Pond House, West Hartford, Connecticut.

The Winter Celebration will feature a buffet, cash bar, DJ, silent auction, CLCC Updates and most importantly a great night out!

Tickets are \$90 and a table of 8 is \$675.

Purchase tickets here:

<https://creativelivingcommunityofct.org/pages/winter-celebration>



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

1

From the Pastor

2

Online Member Directory
Thrivent Sunday and Choice Dollars
Altar and Lectern Flowers

3

Coffee Hours
Gather Connecticut
Souper Bowl of Caring

4

Events and Items of Interest

5

February 2025 Calendar

6

Music From The Heart—
Benefit Concert

7

Caring
Special Offering Envelopes

8

Frisson Winds—FME Concert

Thrivent Sunday

This is just a reminder for all members of Emanuel that we have an Online Member Pictorial Directory. You can access the directory on your laptop, desktop computer or on your phone (through the *Instant Church Directory* app). You'll need to create an account using the email listed for your family's profile in the directory and create your own password.

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

The 2025 Flower Chart is posted in the office hallway and available online!

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

SAVE THE DATE...

THRIVENT SUNDAY—February 23, 2025

Emanuel will be celebrating **Thrivent Sunday** with a **FREE luncheon** in Luther Hall immediately following the worship service. All are welcome. The lunch is not just for Thrivent members; rather it's a fellowship opportunity for everyone (sponsored by Thrivent).



Kent Tedford, Community Engagement Leader, from Thrivent will be with us that morning. He will be available to meet informally with folks and to share information about the Thrivent Choice and Thrivent Action Team programs. He will also share information about the other fraternal benefits available through Thrivent including Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity, various financial education programs and workshops, and the Thrivent Federal Credit Union.

If you're a person who would like personal assistance either setting up online access to your Thrivent account or designating Thrivent Choice dollars, that can be done at the luncheon too.

There will be one service at 10:00 AM and the luncheon will follow immediately thereafter. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us! Any questions, please contact Ray Purtell at purt1015@gmail.com

Important Message for Thrivent Members...

If you designated your 2024 Thrivent Choice Dollars BEFORE January 1, 2025, please check your Thrivent account because you may have additional Choice Dollars that accrued in the last month or two of 2024. You don't want to leave any Choice Dollars behind and miss out on donating to a chosen non-profit organization. **All 2024 Choice Dollars need to be directed by March 31, 2025.**

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

Events and Items of Interest

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. Cream, milk and juices will also be provided. You **ONLY** need to bring the “goodies” and stay for the cleanup afterward. **Easy Peasy!** You may also use any food that you find in the freezer or fridge marked ‘Coffee Hour or Hospitality.’ DIY or partner with a friend! The more the merrier! Food and Fellowship = Fun!!

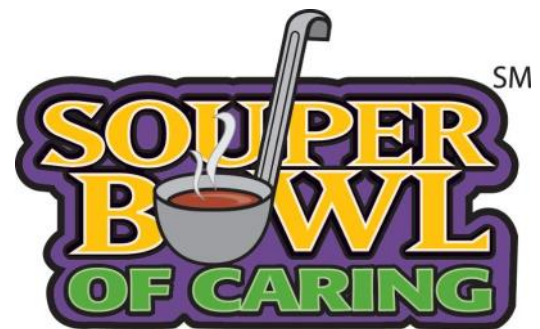
You can sign-up to host coffee hour in one of three ways:

- 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



The ELCA has a ministry called the Gather Network that is specifically for young adults in their 20's and 30's. While there is community for people with young children forming, there is not a lot of opportunities for young adults in our congregation to specifically have community. The first gathering is set for Saturday, February 22 at 2 PM at Hops on the Hill Brewery (275 Dug Road, South Glastonbury).

If you would like to attend or for more information about this ministry, please RSVP to Pastor Joanna at (pastorjoanna@emanuelmanchester.org)



tacklehunger.org

The Souper Bowl of Caring kicks off on Sunday, February 9th!

After worship on February 9th, look for Sunday School children at each exit of the Sanctuary. They will be holding large soup pots to collect donations.

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

There are three 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 drop your donation in the offering plate any Sunday morning during the month of February.

*All donations will support
MACC Charities in Manchester.*



Events and Items of Interest

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

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



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

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

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.

The Women's Breakfast Group will not meet in February and March.

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 2025 are accessible through one link. If you have difficulty signing up for a particular Sunday, email Anne at ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org and let her know what date and what volunteer position you would like.

Snow Tubing at Powder Ridge

**99 Powder Hill Road, Middlefield, CT
Saturday, February 8th at 11:00 AM**

We'll meet at the mountain. This is a congregation event for folks ages 4 and older. No equipment is needed. Tubes and helmets for all riders will be provided at the park. Please note: everyone must ride in their own tube. Parents cannot go down the mountain in a tube with their child.

For more detailed information, or to sign up, please email Pastor Joanna (pastorjoanna@emanuelmanchester.org) by Sunday, 2/2/25.

SAVE THE DATE...

Ruth Circle Gathering

Tuesday, March 4th at 7:00 PM in Luther Hall

Steve Penny will present the program:
"Native American Sites East of the River".

The congregation is invited.

Hostesses: Linda Eckblom, Linda Brown, Lynne Gustafson.

WINTER IS HERE

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

Fastnacht Dinner with Traditional German Fare

**Concordia Lutheran Church
(40 Pitkin Street, Manchester)
Sunday, March 2, 2025**

Social hour from 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM:

cheese/crackers and beer and wine

Dinner at 12:30 PM: roast pork, German potato salad, red cabbage, salad, applesauce, dessert

Suggested Donation (at the door): \$14.00 per person

Please RSVP to ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org by February 23, 2025, along with the number attending from your family and whether you can bring a dessert to share.



February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:30am Annual Meeting of the Congregation - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	27 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	28 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 6:30pm Calumet Ministries Meeting via Zoom	29 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter mailing	30 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	31 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	1
2 <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD 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	3 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	4 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 11:00am Hartford Conference meeting - LH	5 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	6 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	7 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	8 11:00am Snow Tubing at Powder Ridge in Middlefield, CT 7:00pm FME Chamber Music Concert Series - Frisson Winds
9 <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 1:30pm Worship Service at Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor	10 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	11 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED	12 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	13 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	14 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	15 Visitor newsletter deadline
16 <i>Assisting Minister - Kathy Rusch</i> <i>Children's Sermon during worship - No Sunday School</i> <i>Pastor Bill White preaching and presiding</i> 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	17 OFFICE CLOSED - Presidents' Day 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	18 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED	19 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	20 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	21 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	22
23 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> <i>Willow and Wyatt Treece Baptisms during worship</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:00am Thrivent Luncheon - LH 11:30am Confirmation Class - Youth Room 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	24 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	25 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED	26 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter mailing	27 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	28 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	1

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.



Music from the Heart



A free concert to benefit
Norwich Area Refugee Resettlement Group

SATURDAY

15

FEBRUARY

2 PM



st. mark lutheran church
248 BROADWAY
NORWICH, CT

Music From The Heart

is a musical group of six friends based in Manchester CT, sharing their love of music. They formed around the shared vision of bringing music to others now that they have time in retirement to do what they love.

Music From The Heart features Linda, Bill, Tim, Jane, Lynne and Berk, performing a mix of folk, sacred, Americana, oldies and songs we all know "by heart". Come and sing a long!

Join us as Music From The Heart brings the Joy and Songs
so that you can go out and share the Love.

THIS IS A FREE CONCERT BUT CASH OR CHECK DONATIONS TO
NORWICH AREA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT GROUP
ARE WARMLY WELCOMED!

www.norwichlutherans.org

Caring

February Birthdays (Emanuel Members 75+ yrs.)



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

Special Offering Envelopes

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

These are the Special Offering envelopes that are in the annual packets:

January – MACC (Manchester Area of Conference Churches) and Emanuel Endowment Funds (please specify which fund(s) to put offering in)
February – Calumet Campership Fund
March – Ash Wednesday
April – Easter
May – Special Music Fund
June – National Youth Gathering
July – ELCA World Hunger
August – Property
September – Parish Nurse Fund
October – Technology Fund
November – Seasonal Sharing
December – Christmas

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

Dear Emanuel,

Thank you for your pretty package of cookies and your prayers.

Sincerely, Mrs. Ann Dreisbach

Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,193.96 to MACC Charities. Your support plays a vital role in helping us assist those in need, especially during the holiday season when the need is greatest.

Your kindness and commitment to making a difference are truly inspiring. With your contribution, we are able to continue our mission of providing critical services and resources to those who find themselves struggling. The impact of your generosity will be felt by many in our community, bringing comfort and hope to those who need it most.

Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of those who need it most. As we reflect over the 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. Thank you!!

Many Blessings, Shannon Baldassario—CEO



Emanuel Staff

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Berk Little and Kathy Rusch
Worship Support Specialists



FME

FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT EMANUEL
CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES 2024 - 2025

Frisson Winds



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

**Saturday
February 8 at 7 pm**

FREE ADMISSION

DONATIONS WELCOMED

Emanuel Lutheran Church
60 Church Street, Manchester, CT 06040
860 - 643-1193

FriendsofMusicatEmanuel@gmail.com

www.FriendsOfMusicAtEmanuel.org