



60 Church Street
Manchester, CT 06040

(860) 643-1193

website: www.emanuelmanchester.org

February 2026

Emanuel Lutheran Church



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



Visitor

From the Pastor

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love."

—John 15:9

February is a month when we hear a lot about love. It's in store windows, written on tiny candy hearts, greeting cards, and in the dozens of roses that you find as you walk into the grocery store. However, as our Lenten journey begins, we pause to listen to a different kind of love—the kind Jesus speaks about when he says, *"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you."* Before we do anything else, Jesus gives us this promise: we are loved. Fully. Completely. Without condition.

To *abide* means to stay, to settle in, to make a home. Jesus isn't asking us to work harder to be loved or to prove ourselves worthy. He invites us to rest in his love—to live our lives knowing that we already belong to him. This is the heart of our Lutheran faith: we are saved by grace, not by what we do, but by what Christ has done for us. Lent is a gentle invitation to come back—to return to what matters most. Lent helps us clear away the noise and distractions so we can once again hear Jesus say, *"Abide in my love."*

As we walk through this Lenten season together, may we take Jesus' words to heart. May we find moments to pause, to pray, and to remember that we live each day surrounded by Christ's love. And may that love shape how we treat one another, how we serve, and how we move forward in hope.

May this be a season not just of reflection, but of renewal—rooted in the love of Christ, in whom we abide.

Peace to you and yours,

Pastor Joanna



Ash Wednesday Worship

February 18 at 7 PM

Join us as we begin Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 18th. We will have worship at Emanuel at 7 PM.

There will be an opportunity for individual prayer and imposition of ashes in the sanctuary from 10 AM to noon as well.

Holden Evening Prayer and Lectio Divina on Thursdays during Lent, beginning February 26th, at 7:00 PM in the Community Room

Throughout Lent, beginning on February 26th, we will offer Holden Evening prayer on Thursdays at 7 PM at Emanuel in the Community Room. After Holden Evening prayer, people are invited to stay as Bea teaches us how to explore Scripture using Lectio Divina. We hope you can join us!

If your schedule doesn't allow for you to join us for Holden Evening Prayer at Emanuel on Thursday evenings during Lent, Concordia Lutheran Church (40 Pitkin Street, Manchester) will offer Holden Evening Prayer at 7 PM on WEDNESDAY evenings during Lent.

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

Thrivent Choice Dollars, Coffee Hours, Winter Storm Closings

A letter from Pastor Joanna and Members of Emanuel to Concordia Lutheran Church...

January 14, 2026

Dear partners in ministry at Concordia Lutheran Church,

I write to let you know that you are in the prayers of the Emanuel community as you move forward with the holy closure process. We know that this is holy work, guided by the Spirit, and that it is also hard work. I imagine that it carries many emotions: grief, gratitude, weariness, pride, and love, often all at once.

A congregation is never merely a building or an institution. It is a community of baptisms and funerals, meals shared, songs sung, prayers and faithful service offered again and again over many years. Please know that we will be praying for you every week in worship. I share the prayer petition below:

For Concordia Lutheran Church, as they walk through the process of holy closure: that God would surround them with comfort and peace, honor the ministry they have shared, guide them with wisdom and grace in each decision.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

I know that words are never quite enough for moments like this. We hope that this letter and the knowledge that you are in our prayers helps you know that you do not walk this road alone. We hold you in prayer, giving thanks for your faithfulness and asking God to meet you with comfort, courage, and hope. If there are ways we can accompany you—through presence or practical support—we are here.

Peace to you and yours,

Pastor Joanna Hertzog Bethoski

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

There is nothing easier than THRIVENT CHOICE when it comes to getting free money to help Emanuel and over 40,000 other nonprofit organizations. Eligible Thrivent members are able to direct some of Thrivent's charitable outreach funds each year.

It can be done one of two ways described below.

BY PHONE

- ◆ Call Thrivent at 800-847-4836. When prompted, say “**Thrivent Choice**”, then press 1.
- ◆ Speak to a representative who will help you direct Choice Dollars. It's that easy!
- ◆ Call between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. (Central Standard Time); Monday-Friday.

ONLINE

- ◆ Visit **Thrivent.com**
- ◆ Log in by entering your user ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click “Register for Account Access”.)
- ◆ From the “Shortcuts” on the home page, select the “Direct Choice Dollars”.
- ◆ In the search box, type “Emanuel Lutheran Church, Manchester, CT” or
- ◆ Follow the prompts to select your charity and finish at “Direct”.

ALL THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS EARNED IN 2025 MUST BE DESIGNATED BY MARCH 31, 2026.

If you'd like help registering your account online, please let Ray Purtell know. He will be happy to assist. Give him a call at 860-228-2788 or email Ray: Purt1015@gmail.com.

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

- ◆ On the paper sign-up sheet in the narthex
- ◆ Through the online sign-up sheet:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YKFVJbX8HdJsFGkRaQfvndhTMmffSyyDNqYHcs3sCAE/edit?usp=sharing>
- ◆ Call or email Anne in the Church Office: 860-643-1193 or ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org

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 or other event on the television and online at WVIT–NBC 30 and WFSB–CBS 3. Members will also receive an email. Please check before you come to the church. We want everyone to be safe.



Fastnacht at Concordia, Nametags, Flowers



Fastnacht Dinner

With Traditional German Fare

Sunday February 15, 2026

**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, Green Beans and Mushrooms,
Salad, Applesauce, Dessert

Suggested Donation: \$15.00 per person (pay at the door)

Please RSVP to:

aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org
by Sunday, February 8th, with the
number of people attending from
your family and whether you can
bring a dessert to share.

Nametags

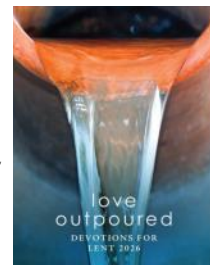
Are you a member of Emanuel or attend worship on a regular basis? We would love to make you a magnetic nametag to wear on Sunday mornings for worship! If you don't already have one, or need a new one, please sign up on the sheet on the bookcase by the ramp or in the narthex. You may also contact Kathy Rusch in person or by email: krusch2@comcast.net

Love Outpoured:

Devotions for Lent 2026

Love Outpoured focuses on portions of the apostle Paul's letter to the Romans. In words that continue to speak to us today, Paul lays out foundational beliefs for a life of faith in Christian community.

Copies of the book should be available to pick up in the narthex on Sunday, 2/8.



The 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/1Zmt_2tIjVscckRJ7iw-wg3axc-NMnrMkXzH38Mn5Y-0/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 Florist 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/1esUeo1teFV5weRRmWJdRJik1e3p8LR-NCykCZ9GkSqw/edit?usp=sharing>

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

Events and Items of Interest

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

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



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

Emanuel's Church Office Hours

The Church Office is OPEN on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 AM—2 PM.

The Church Office is CLOSED on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If you need to come to the church outside of office hours, please contact Pastor Joanna at pastorjoanna@emanuelmanchester.org to make an appointment.

Worship volunteers are needed for our Sunday morning 10 AM worship service.

We continue to need the following worship volunteers each Sunday: two Communion Assistants, one Lector, and four Ushers.

A sign-up link is emailed out weekly (if volunteers are needed). If you are able volunteer, please use the electronic sign-up. All Sundays through December 2026 are accessible through one link. If you have difficulty signing up for a particular Sunday, email Anne at aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org and let her know what date and what volunteer position you would like. If you would like to try something new, training is provided!

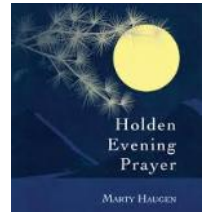
Weekly Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 10 AM in the Library.

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

Two opportunities for Lenten Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesdays at 7 PM at Concordia
(February 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25)

Thursdays at 7 PM at Emanuel
(February 26, March 5, 12, 19 & 26)



The Hem Hangout with Alexa on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:30 – 8:30 PM Luther Hall



New to sewing? Join us for lessons to get started on sewing anything from satchels to clothing. Working on a project? Come join for community as we sew together. **Please bring a sewing machine that is functioning.** We will have small projects for practice, but feel free to bring any pattern or project you would like to learn to make. Questions? Please contact Alexa: jagianinio@gmail.com

Save the Date...

Congregational Getaway Weekend at Camp Calumet in NH August 21- 23, 2026



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

Please sign up in the narthex if you're interested in going and fill out a registration form.

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

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> 10:00am Emanuel Sunday School - Sunday School Room 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:30am SNOW DATE: Annual Meeting of the Congregation - LH 12:00pm Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) Worship Service - Community Room 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary	2 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	3 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED	4 6:30pm The Hem Hangout - LH	5 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	6 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	7 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room 2:00pm Set-up for Music From the Heart Concert (Camp Calumet Campership) Fundraiser
8 <i>Assisting Minister - Kathy Rusch</i> Souper Bowl of Caring 10:00am Emanuel Sunday School - Sunday School Room 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:30am Camp Calumet Campership Fundraiser: Music From the Heart Band Concert with lunch 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary	9 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting - LH	10 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom	11 7:00pm Bible Study led by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) - LH	12 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	13 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	14 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room
15 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> <i>Children's Sermon during worship - No Sunday School</i> Visitor newsletter deadline 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:15am Fastnacht (Reservations Required) - Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary	16 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED - PRESIDENTS DAY 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	17 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Council Meeting - LH	18 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:00am Ashes and Individual Prayer at Emanuel in the Sanctuary 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service at Emanuel	19 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	20 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	21 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room 6:00pm Emanuel Book Club: Inspired, by Rachel Held Evans - Family Room
22 <i>Assisting Minister - Adela Garmendia</i> 10:00am Emanuel Sunday School - Sunday School Room 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:15am Finance Committee meeting - Library and via Zoom 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary	23 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	24 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Emanuel Housing Corp. Meeting - LH	25 Visitor newsletter mailing 7:00pm Bible Study led by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) - LH	26 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer - Community Room	27 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	28 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room

For the most current calendar that updates in real time, please visit our website: emanuelmanchester.org and click on the "Latest News" tab where you will see the highlighted link to the MONTHLY CALENDAR.

MUSIC

**FEBRUARY 8, 2026
11:30 AM
LUTHER HALL**



CONCERT & SING-ALONG!

Join us for a "Crock Pot" luncheon featuring favorites such as beef stew, minestrone soup, and chili—all complemented by artisan breads and beverages.

**A free will offering will support
MACC & Calumet camperships.**

FROM THE HEART

60 Church St., Manchester, CT 06040

Sunday, February 8th

Immediately following worship we'll be entertained by "Music from the Heart", part concert-part sing along, it's sure to be a good time for all! There will be a "Crock and Stock Pot" luncheon featuring crock pot favorites such as beef stew, minestrone soup, and chili—all complemented by artisan breads and beverages. Gluten free and vegetarian options will be available. Finger food desserts will follow. If you enjoyed "Soups & Songs" a couple of years ago, you won't want to miss this event!

Caring

February Birthdays (Emanuel Members 75+ yrs.)

Erika Meier	2/3
Rodney Andersen	2/8
Matthew Heinrich, Jr.	2/27



Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members,
Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,473. to MACC Charities, to be used where most needed. Your support plays a vital role in helping us assist those in need, especially during the holiday season when the need is greatest. Thank you for being a congregation who is passionate about creating a community where everyone feels they belong.

Many Blessings, Shannon Baldassario—CEO

Dear Members of Emanuel,

Chuck and I thank Pastor Joanna for stopping by for a visit with communion and for the Advent devotional booklets.

We also so appreciate the Milord family and for the very delicious Christmas cookies and treats they delivered to our home.

A Blessed Christmas to All, Pat and Chuck Sack

The cookies you left were delicious and appreciated by our family.
It's thoughtful that you do this.

Again thanks, Linda and Maylord Hempstead

The Souper Bowl of Caring kicks off Sunday, February 8th!

After worship on February 8th, 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.

Special Offering Envelopes

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



Special Offering envelope for February: Endowment Funds

If you would like to give to this special offering, you can drop your check in the offering plate (or mail your check to the church office), made out to Emanuel Lutheran Church with the specific special offering listed on the memo line. You may also give online through the secure donation page at www.emanuelmanchester.org.



Emanuel Staff

(860) 643-1193

Pastor Joanna Hertzog Betkoski
pastorjoanna@emanuelmanchester.org

Anne Heinrich
Office Administrator
aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org

Jeff Sirois
Director of Music
jsirois@emanuelmanchester.org

Katie Kurlak
Director of Family Ministries
familyministry@emanuelmanchester.org

Donna Connolly
Parish Nurse
ds3connolly@gmail.com

Kathy Hatch
Property Supervisor
Khatch4@gmail.com

Barton Sattler
Treasurer
treasurer@emanuelmanchester.org

Jodi Eskin
Financial Secretary
jeskin67@hotmail.com

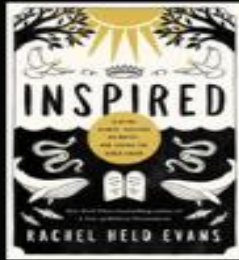
Berk Little and Kathy Rusch
Worship Support Specialists





EMANUEL LUTHERAN BOOK CLUB

INSPIRED BY
RACHEL HELD EVANS
saturday. feb. 21 at 6pm



Please read the book
prior to our
discussion. We'll meet
in the family room.
Bring snacks and a
beverage if you like!

Emanuel Lutheran Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED