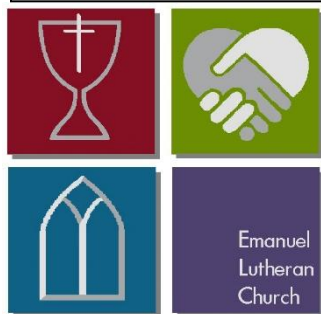


ONLINE



Emanuel Lutheran Church

A member of the New England Synod of the ELCA
(a "Reconciling In Christ" Congregation)

60 Church Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 643-1193

www.emanuelmanchester.org



This worship service is broadcast live on Zoom, recorded and the full worship service is uploaded to YouTube. In alignment with our safe church policy and with recommendation from the ELCA, anytime children are present in front of the camera, the recording device will blur faces.

If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Joanna.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM

December 21, 2025

*Please rise, in body or in spirit, at the points indicated by *.*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *Carol for Advent*, by Nancy Price and Don Besig **Anthem Choir**

***Advent Candle Lighting** *Love* **Paul, Katie, Eli, and Owen Kurlak**

We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings love.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings love.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings love.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen
Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

Children are invited to attend Sunday School downstairs in the Sunday School/Youth Room.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

All: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

All: **we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

Pastor: God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.
† You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

All: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn**Fling Wide The Door*****ELW 259**

1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
king's com-mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704

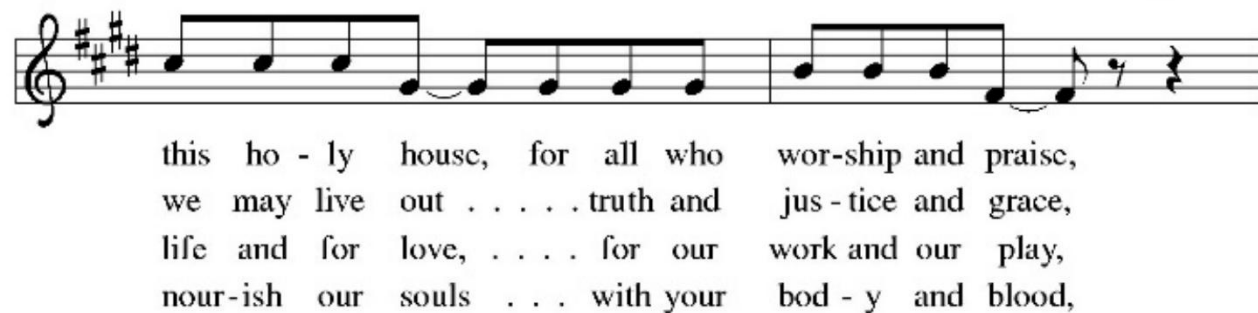
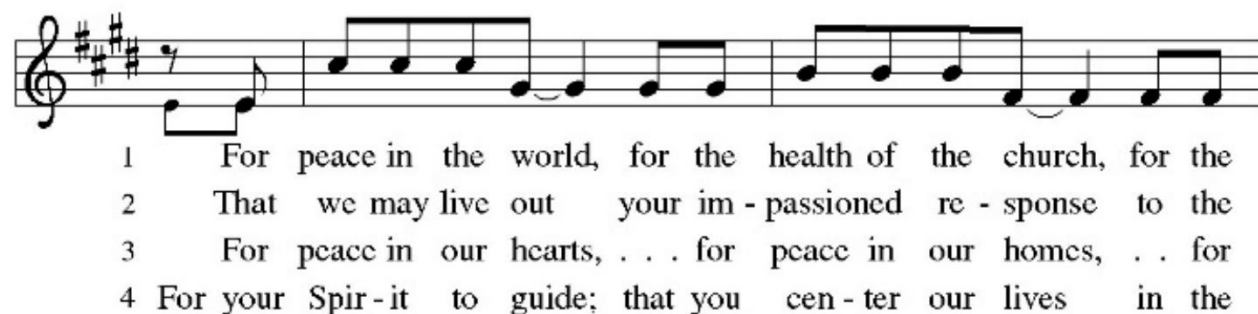
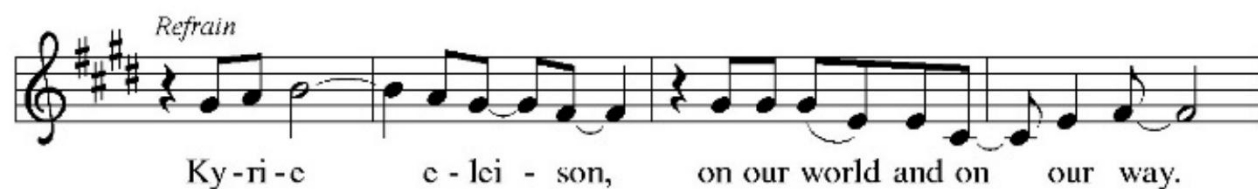
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

***Greeting**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

***Kyrie** We will sing the Refrain, followed by verse 4, and end with the Refrain



***Prayer of the Day**

Pastor: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Joanna Hertzog Betkoski

*Hymn of the Day

Joy to the World

ELW 267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the
ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -
room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

*Apostles' Creed

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

AM: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

To the words: "God of grace," the congregation responds: "hear our prayer."

AM: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

All: Amen.

*Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Offertory Hymn

He Came Down

ELW 253



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

*Offertory Prayer

Pastor: Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.

All: Amen.

*Holy Communion

Pastor: The Lord be with you. All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join
their unending hymn:

*Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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*The Words of Institution

(not printed)

*The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Holy Communion

Pastor: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

All: **Amen.**

*All are welcome to receive communion—if this is your first time receiving or your 500th time receiving. In this meal, Jesus meets us in and through the bread and wine. Communion will be offered in a continuous style in front of the altar as well as at the altar rail. We'll commune the right side first, moving to the left side, starting with the front pews and moving towards the back. If you would like to receive communion at the altar rail, do so by using the center steps. You are welcome to stand or kneel at the altar rail. Please wait until the group is blessed and dismissed before going back to your seat by **using the side steps that lead to the side aisles**. If you are receiving in front of the altar, when you come forward, you will receive a wafer. We have a gluten free option available. There will be a tray of cups of red wine and of white grape juice. After you drink the wine/juice, please dispose of your cup in the receptacles on the sides of the sanctuary. If you are unable to come forward, we are happy to bring communion to you. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.*

Communion Hymns

Jesus, Lamb of God

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com
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1 No wind at the win - dow, no knock on the door;
 2 "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, don't hide from my face.
 3 This child must be born that the king - dom might come:
 4 No pay - ment was prom - ised, no prom - is - es made;



no light from the lamp - stand, no foot on the floor;
 Be glad that you're fa - vored and filled with God's grace.
 sal - va - tion for man - y, de - struc - tion for some;
 no wed - ding was dat - ed, no blue - print dis - played.



no dream born of tired - ness, no ghost raised by fear:
 The time for re - deem - ing the world has be - gun,
 both end and be - gin - ning, both mes - sage and sign;
 Yet Mar - y, con - sent - ing to what none could guess,



just an an - gel and a wom - an and a voice in her ear.
 and . . . you are re - quest - ed to . . . moth - er God's Son."
 both . . vic - tor and . . vic - tim, both . . yours and di - vine.
 re - plied with con - vic - tion, "Tell . . God I say yes."

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: COLUMCILLE, Irish melody

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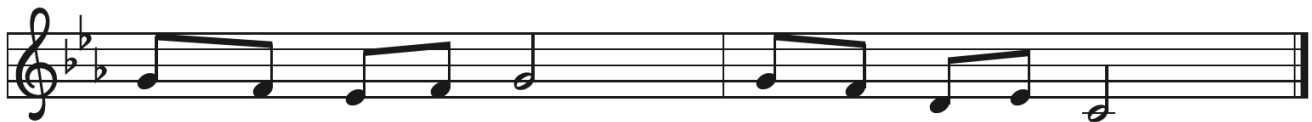
1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
 2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
 3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
 Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
 Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
 Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
 Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune

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*Post Communion Prayer

AM: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
 Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger,
 and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

*Blessing

As You Go On Your Way

As you go on your way may Christ go with you. May he go before you to show you the way; May he go behind you to encourage you; Beside you to befriend you; Above you to watch over; Within you to give you peace.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staves: G, C, G, C/G, D7, G, G/F#, C/E, Ami, D7, G, C, G, G/F#, Emi, C, G, C, G, Ami, D7sus, D7, G.

*Dismissal

AM: Go in peace. Keep awake.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

A Story for All People

New Day Singers

Please join us for Coffee Hour downstairs in Luther Hall following worship.
All are welcome!

The January – March edition of the Christ in Our Home Daily Devotion book is available to pick up at both entrances to the sanctuary. Large print and regular print copies are available.

Seasonal Sharing

Today is the final Sunday that the “little white church” is out in the Narthex to collect monetary donations to benefit Emanuel’s Seasonal Sharing program.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Assisting Minister: Kathy Rusch

Ushers: Pat Nelson, Richard Marsh, Ann-Linda Bray, Kurt Buescher

Communion Assistants: Ann-Linda Bray, Carol Kohl

Lector: Valerie Norris

Sunday School Teacher: Emily Braman

Sunday School Volunteer: Ray Purtell

Advent Candle Lighting: Paul, Katie, Eli and Owen Kurlak

Altar Guild: Elsa Robinson, Judy Polito, Linda Eckblom

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Emanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH Staff

Church Office: 860-643-1193

Joanna Hertzog Betkoski, Pastor

Jeff Sirois, Director of Music

Bea Luciano, Field Education Student

Anne Heinrich, Office Administrator

Katie Kurlak, Director of Family Ministries

Donna Connolly, Parish Nurse

Kathy Hatch, Property Supervisor

Barton Sattler, Treasurer

Berk Little, Worship Support Specialist

Kathy Rusch, Worship Support Specialist

Hearing Assistance devices are available in the lobby. Many people who have difficulty hearing, and even people attending worship who happen to sit in an audio “dead spot” in the sanctuary could benefit from using a Hearing Assistance device during the service. If you would like to give one a try, please ask an usher for assistance.

If you are visiting with us this morning, we would love for you to fill out a Welcome Card!

Cards are located on the table next to the guest book in the narthex. If you need assistance, an usher can direct you. You can share your name, phone number and email with us as well as let us know if you have a prayer request that you would like printed on our prayer list, or if you would like to be added to our email communications list to receive our monthly newsletter and Friday Weekly Update emails. Cards can be left in the basket located next to the cards, given to an usher, or placed in the offering plate.

Special Offering Envelopes

The Special Offering envelope for December is **Christmas**. If you would like to give to any of the special offerings in 2025, you can drop your check in the offering plate (or mail your check to the church office), made out the Emanuel Lutheran Church with the specific special offering listed on the memo line.

Reminder to Members and Friends of Emanuel

Emanuel will be closing its financial books for the year on Wednesday, December 31, 2025. If you want your donation to be credited to your account and included on your giving statement for this year, **we need to receive it by Sunday, December 28th**. Any donations received after this date will be posted in 2026. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Historian/Archivist Wanted

Are you interested in History? Are you interested in preserving documents, photographs and other objects? Would you like to learn more about the history of Emanuel Lutheran Church?

If you answered yes to these questions, you could become the Historian/Archivist of Emanuel.

In January, Matt Heinrich will step away from that position after 21 years of service to Emanuel, and we would like to find someone to take on that role. Much of the history of Emanuel has been organized and cataloged; Matt will describe the documentation and artifacts to you and will assist in the transition. If you are interested in serving in this role, please contact Kathy Rusch in person or by email to: krusch2@comcast.net.

Camp Calumet Camper Registration for Summer 2026

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-week and 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.

Visit: calumet.org for registration information.

To register, 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 will offer camperships for children attending Calumet Resident or Day Camp!

To secure a Calumet Campership from Emanuel, please email Anne in the Church Office (aheinrich@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: \$1105/week (This rate reflects the true cost of camp.)

Rate 2: \$980/week (Rate for families for whom the full cost of camp is out of reach. Rate is subsidized by generous donors.)

Rate 3: \$855/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 31, 2025.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Assisting Minister - Kathy Rusch

10:00am–10:45am Sunday School - Youth Room

10:00am–11:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

1:30pm–4:00pm Christ Church Worship Service—Sanctuary

Monday, December 22, 2025

CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM

Visitor newsletter mailing

10:00am–12:30pm Music From the Heart Band rehearsal – MR

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED

7:00pm–8:00pm Emanuel Housing Corp. Meeting – LH

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

OFFICE CLOSED - CHRISTMAS EVE

11:00am–12:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service

4:00pm–5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service

Thursday, December 25, 2025

CHRISTMAS DAY

CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED

12:00pm–6:00pm Hatch Family Christmas Gathering – LH

Friday, December 26, 2025

OFFICE CLOSED - DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

8:30am–1:00pm Health Collective - LH/MR

Saturday, December 27, 2025

9:30am–11:30am Polito Family Gathering – LH

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann

10:00am–11:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

1:30pm–4:00pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Are you the Chairperson of a Committee at Emanuel?

If so, this is a reminder that it's time to write your report for inclusion in Emanuel's 2025 annual report to the congregation! You should have received an email about this from Anne Heinrich on Friday, 12/12/25. 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 Monday, January 5, 2026.

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!



Christmas Eve Services

Emanuel Lutheran Church
60 Church Street, Manchester
www.emanuelmanchester.org

11 AM Family-friendly Worship Service
with Children's Sermon and Holy Communion

4 PM Family-friendly Worship Service
with Children's Sermon and Holy Communion

Both worship services will include exceptional, joyous music featuring our choirs, along with many familiar Christmas hymns and carols.



Please join us. All are welcome!



BOTH Christmas Eve worship services will include the EXACT SAME MUSIC. The only difference between the two services is that the 11:00 AM includes three lector readings and the 4 PM service only has one. So, please choose the service that best fits your family's schedule.