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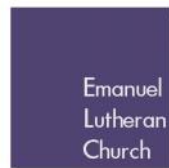
website: www.emanuelmanchester.org

January 2023

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

*And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem.
It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child
was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!*

—Matthew 2: 9-10

A few years ago, I was introduced to the Epiphany tradition of star words. The premise is that the magi followed the star to find Jesus, and God still guides us with signs—or stars—as we grow in our faith.

During worship on January 8, you will be invited to take a star. On each star, a word is written. Words like—acceptance, amazement, blessing, challenge, forgiving, mystery. You'll be invited to put that star somewhere you can see it throughout 2023 and to pay attention to how that word shows up for you through the year.

I remember that my star word for 2020 was foresight. In March of 2020, that word felt laughable as we were in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and weren't sure what was happening week to week. Other times, a star word serves as one that we need to focus on in particular situations. Another person shared that his word was calm. He frequently found himself agitated by his neighbor, but lived into this word of calm and created a new relationship with his neighbor during the pandemic.

On January 8, we will also choose a word for our community and see how and where the Spirit shows up with it. This may be a new tradition for Emanuel, but I hope you'll open yourself to it and see where the Spirit leads. On Epiphany 2024, we'll share stories with one another where those words showed up as well as how our community star word shaped our community of faith.

No matter what 2022 was like, a new year provides a fresh start and a start for us to see how the Spirit is at work.

*Peace to you and yours,
Pastor Joanna*



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From the Vicar

Ryan Heckman

By January 9th, I will be about 2,000 miles south of Connecticut (as the crow flies) in the central American country of Guatemala. Throughout the month of January, I am participating in Luther Seminary's travel course as a part of my graduation requirements.

My trip to Guatemala will also include 4 days in Tapachula, Mexico and Mexico City, Mexico. Our focus throughout the trip will be on the mass migration movement that has been taking place through these areas for my entire life. We will be visiting several Lutheran communities in Guatemala who are part of the Iglesia Luterana Augustina De Guatemala (ILAG). This denominational body is a part of the Lutheran World Federation and is a partner of the ELCA's mission called AMMPARO which is short for: Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.

This trip is not a mission trip in the traditional sense though. Our group will not be bringing resources, or expert knowledge to those who will be hosting us in Guatemala and in Mexico. Our goal is to learn from Guatemalan and Mexican congregations who are doing amazing work caring for, accompanying and legally advocating for migrants, and particularly migrant children, as they flee from their home countries and filling in the gaps where governments might be falling short. I actually believe that this is a kind of "reverse mission" trip. The missionaries are those in Guatemala and Mexico who have given those of us in the United States the gift of partnering with the ELCA and teaching us how to accompany and care for migrants fleeing violence, poverty, crime or environmental disaster. I believe that our national infrastructure around immigration and asylum seekers is less humane and accommodating than it has been historically. Our national immigration rhetoric focuses on border security, militarized "hardening" of the United State's southern border and often tends to stray away from the human stories that accompany each person as they flee from violence, political turmoil, or natural disasters. Our Christian story calls us to care for the neighbor, and our neighbors to the south of our border are included in Christ's call to us to "Love our God and love our neighbors as ourselves."

I have a lot to learn from the people who are doing what they can to accompany these migrants safely and with legal protections through dangerous terrain and territory to find a new and improved life in Mexico, the United States and increasingly Canada. This topic is again becoming important to learn about as Title 42 (a Covid-19 policy that near totally banned asylum seekers entry to the United States due to public health risk) is expiring this month. I am looking forward to sharing some of what I learn when I return!

I encourage you to learn about the ELCA's AMMPARO initiative by visiting www.elca.org/ammparo.



This is a great reminder for all of us. This graphic was sent to us from the New England Synod. Staff members of the synod as well as staff members of Emanuel will never ask for gift cards, money, a favor etc.

Reminder to the Members and Friends of Emanuel...

Emanuel will be closing its financial books for the year on Saturday, December 31, 2022.

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 December 31. Any donations received after this date will be posted in 2023.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Please remember that at Emanuel we have 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 you'll see it on the wall directly in front of you.



Thrivent Choice

THRIVENT CHOICE...Time to ACT NOW

There is nothing easier than THRIVENT CHOICE when it comes to getting free money to help Emanuel and over 40,000 other nonprofit organizations on Thrivent's approved list. Eligible Thrivent members include those with benefit membership who have \$750 or more in annual premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products OR have \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance and annuity products. Qualifying members are able to direct some of Thrivent's charitable outreach funds each year.



"That's awesome", you say. "I'm a Thrivent member and I want to help the church." It's easy! It can be done one of two ways described below.

BY PHONE

- Simply call Thrivent at **800 847-4836** and when prompted, **press 6** for Thrivent Choice
- Then **Press 2** to speak to a representative who will help you direct Choice Dollars. It's that easy!

ONLINE-DO IT YOURSELF

- 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**".)
- In the top right, select "Account Overview"
- Select the "Membership Overview" tab.
- Scroll down to Thrivent Choice and select "Direct Choice Dollars".
- Choose the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars.
- To direct to a previous organization, click "**Direct Now**" next to the organization's name.
- Click "**View activity history**", then scroll down and click on the **name of the desired organization**.
- To direct to a new organization, **enter keyword(s)** like name of organization, city, zip code, etc. and then click "**Search**".
- Choose "**Direct All**" or **enter a specific number** and click "**Direct Now**"
- Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

You have the power to recommend where Thrivent gives back!

Now that you know how to do it, it's time to act! It only takes a few minutes to make a real difference. Emanuel, like other worthy non-profits, has a real need to increase revenues in support of its mission; especially during these times when other revenue sources are declining and inflationary pressures are driving costs up. **Thrivent Choice dollars can help! PLEASE make the time. It will make a meaningful difference. You'll be glad you did.**

If you'd like help registering your account online, please let me know. I'd be happy to assist. Just either give me a call at (860) 228-2788 or email me at **Purt1015@gmail.com**.

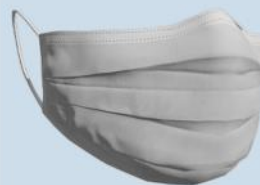
Ray Purtell
Emanuel's Thrivent Coordinator

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.



Masks are OPTIONAL inside Emanuel's building.



Masks are **RECOMMENDED** inside if you are unvaccinated or at high risk for COVID-19 due to any chronic health condition.

Thank you.

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 sign out after worship. Personal healing prayer is offered to people who wish to receive it at the altar immediately following the postlude.

Weekly Bible Study
Thursdays at 10AM in the library

Women's Breakfast
Wednesday, January 18th
8:30 AM at Evergreen Crossings
in South Windsor



Cost per person is \$5.

An RSVP to Lynne Gustafson: cgustafson01@snet.net is required by Tuesday, January 17th.

In-Depth Sunday Bible and Sermon Study is on pause through January 2023.

It will resume on Sunday, February 5th
at 11:15 AM in the Youth Room.

If you are serving as a Communion Assistant or Assisting Minister during Sunday morning worship, please note that mask wearing is mandatory at this time for those serving the wafer, wine and grape juice in communion.



The 2023 Flower Chart is posted in the Office Hallway.

Please sign up for Altar or Lectern Flowers to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. 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). 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.

REMINDER from the Parish Nurse:

At this time of year when one starts to experience signs and symptoms of a respiratory illness, we often wonder could this be the flu, COVID or the common cold. The symptoms of these viruses are similar, and it is often hard to distinguish which one it is. So may I suggest, if you are not feeling well, but you feel obligated to take part in any of our church events, please feel free to stay home and take care of yourself. Often when one is coming down with an illness, the immune system is not working at its peak performance, and you may become vulnerable to other viruses or pathogens. So, to protect yourself and others, please stay home and know that you will certainly be welcomed back, as soon as you are feeling better.

Please remember that you are always welcome to join worship LIVE on Zoom (a link is emailed out every Sunday morning at 8 AM) and a recording of the service is sent out later on Sunday, so you won't miss anything if you need to stay home.

Would you like to serve on Altar Guild in 2023?

We would love to welcome new volunteers to help set-up and clean-up for worship.

Altar Guild members are those who set-up and clean up for Holy Communion. Training is offered and work is "behind the scenes" either Saturday mornings or Sunday after worship services.



If you have questions or would like more information, please contact:
Kim Boerner-Mercier: johnkim4@aol.com

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

We continue to need the following worship volunteers each Sunday: four 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 January—March 2023 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 aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org and let her know what date and what volunteer position you would like.

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>CLCC Eggs for sale after worship</i> <i>Healing Prayer following worship at the Altar</i> NEW YEAR'S DAY 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	2 CHP - Holiday Break OFFICE CLOSED - NEW YEAR'S DAY OBSERVED	3 CHP - Holiday Break 10:00am Staff Meeting via Zoom 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary	4 CHP - Holiday Break Deadline to submit Annual Reports 7:00pm Worship & Arts Meeting - Library	5 CHP - Holiday Break 10:00am Bible Study - Library 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	6 CHP - Holiday Break EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	7 8:45am Music Together Class - CR
8 10:00am Sunday School - LH 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	9 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting - LH	10 10:00am Staff Meeting via Zoom 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary	11	12 10:00am Bible Study - Library 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	13 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	14 8:45am Music Together Class - CR 9:00am Audit of Financial Records - LH
15 <i>Children's Sermon during Worship Service</i> <i>CLCC Eggs for sale after worship</i> 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	16 CHP - No School OFFICE CLOSED - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY	17 11:00am Planning Meeting for Staff 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Council Meeting - LH	18 8:30am Women's Breakfast - Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor	19 10:00am Bible Study - Library 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	20 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	21 8:45am Music Together Class - CR 4:00pm Three Flutes and Piano "Just for Fun" Concert - SA
22 Annual Meeting of the Congregation 10:00am Sunday School - LH 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	23	24 10:00am Staff Meeting via Zoom 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary	25	26 10:00am Bible Study - Library 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	27 Visitor newsletter mailing 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	28 8:45am Music Together Class - CR 9:00am CLCC Retreat - LH
29 <i>CLCC Eggs for sale after worship</i> 10:00am Sunday School - LH 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	30	31 10:00am Staff Meeting via Zoom 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary	1	2 10:00am Bible Study - Library	3 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	4 8:45am Music Together Class - CR 7:00pm FME Chamber Music Concert Series - Leonid Sigal - SA

Annual Meeting of the Congregation—Sunday, January 22, 2023 in Luther Hall.

(Immediately following the 10 AM worship service).

Archived copies of all 2022 *Visitor* newsletters are available on our website under the password protected MEMBER ACCESS tab (pull down to "VISITOR NEWSLETTERS").

Historical Notes

By Matt Heinrich

During the time that Dr. P.J.O. Cornell served as the Pastor (1911 – 1932), he not only led the Church during a time of the growth of membership and the construction of a new building, but he and his wife also lost two sons who died in the service of their country during World War I. One died in France and one succumbed to disease while training in the United States. They are remembered in a memorial window. One additional member of the congregation, Ernest G. Anderson, was also killed in action during the war. The war ended with the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918 which was the same year as the influenza epidemic.

As indicated earlier, the ground was broken for the new building for Emanuel on May 10, 1914 and the cornerstone was laid on July 23, 1916. After the basement was completed, work was stopped because of difficulty in obtaining materials and labor and their increased cost because of the war. After the last service was held in the original wooden building on December 9, 1917, services were conducted in the basement of the new building. After the war, work on the building got underway once more. During the construction period the cost of the building grew from the originally estimated amount of \$25,000 to a total cost of \$66,000 and the congregation struggled to raise additional funds. The needed funds were provided by various members and organizations within the Church. Some of these contributions included a donation of \$8,000 from the Ladies Aid Society and a total of \$5,400 from the Luther League of which \$2,400 was for the organ.

Pastor Cornell not only sketched the design for the church, he also influenced many of the features of the interior including the design of the pulpit. In addition, his daughter, Hildur, designed the hymn boards as well as stencil work and hand painted the ivy-entwined crosses at the front of the sanctuary. The altar mural depicting Christ's ascension was done by Professor Olof Grafstrom of Augustana College.

The Church was completed in 1923, and was dedicated on May 18, 1923 by Dr. S. G. Haaglund of the New England Conference. Unfortunately, Pastor Cornell was unable to attend the event because he was seriously ill at the time and was unable to leave the parsonage.

Upon her arrival in Manchester, Hildur Cornell became the organist and choir director and held this position for 13 years until 1924, when she was succeeded by Helge Pearson.

Pastor Cornell continued to serve Emanuel until 1932 although his health frequently made it necessary for him to require assistance. He remained active, however, and participated when Emanuel celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on May 9 - 10, 1931. This milestone was commemorated in a history of the congregation which was written by Pastor Cornell and which was printed in both English and Swedish. Approximately one year after this celebration, Pastor Cornell preached his last sermon as the pastor and departed the congregation on June 12, 1932.

Additional information about the history of the Church will be provided in subsequent issues of The Visitor. If you have any questions or comments about the history of the Church or the extensive archive including newspaper clippings, photographs and objects, please contact me. I can be reached at fmheinrich@snet.net or by telephone at the number in the Church Directory.

Ruth Circle celebrated Christmas with a festive luncheon gathering at Evergreen Crossings, RLC in South Windsor on Saturday, December 3, 2022.



Pictured: (left to right)
Lynne Gustafson, Helen Johnson, Marianne Wilcox, Barbara Heinrich, Karin Buus, Sylvia Hellstrom, Vicar Ryan Heckman, Linda Eckblom, Carol Kohl, Linda Jackson, Diane Gawlinski, Jeannine Johnson, Marge Andersen, Elsa Robinson, Kris Fournier, Shannon Baldassario (from MACC Charities), Rosemary Hokanson, Ruth Lehrach, and Barbara Stephens.

Caring

January Birthdays

Clinton Bowman II	1/18	Karen Kissman	1/22
Loren Davis	1/19	Nancy Scott	1/24
Kent Carlson	1/21		



Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$4,270.53 to MACC Charities as a church and member gift.

December blessings for the final month of the year! May this month bring you peace, love and an abundance of new opportunities to come. Sending all good wishes for a very special holiday season.

Many Blessings,
Shannon Baldassario – Assistant Executive Director

Coffee Hour Hosts

A sign up sheet is posted in the office hallway. We would love to have Coffee Hour every Sunday in Luther Hall at 11 AM. Are you willing to host? The host is responsible for making the coffee and providing either individual, pre-wrapped treats or act as the “server” behind the banquet table to plate any items that are not individually wrapped. The host is also responsible for providing half & half, milk or cream as well as juice.



Support Emanuel Lutheran Church through



To connect with Emanuel as a charity, follow this link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-0662122>

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Anne at aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org.

Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God’s hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, they stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Checks or money orders can be sent to:

Lutheran Disaster Response

P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

You may also give by phone at 800-638-3522 or online:

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>

Chicken Eggs from Creative Living Community of Connecticut (CLCC) are for sale (\$4.00 dozen) outside of the Community Room every other Sunday after worship. For more information, contact Jane Jauss (mijauss@comcast.net).

Emanuel Staff

(860) 643-1193

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Kathy Purtell
Council President
kray524@gmail.com

Berk Little and Kathy Rusch
Worship Support Specialists

Church Office Hours

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

We celebrated Saint Lucia on Sunday, December 11, 2022 with a Processional during worship.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED