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January 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

Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

—Matthew 2: 9-10 (The Message translation)

Epiphany, which is celebrated on January 6, is the festival we commemorate the visit of the magi to the Christ child. The magi were most likely astrologers—studying the night sky. When a new star appeared, they would be the ones who knew about it. And so, it was a star who led them to the Christ child.

Last year, on Epiphany Sunday, each of you chose a star word for the year 2023. The idea is to see how that word manifests itself in your life during the year. In the same way that the magi followed the star, God continues to guide us with signs—or stars—as we grow in our faith.

Please bring your stars with you on Sunday, January 7, and let me know if you'd be willing to share a story of how your star word guided you this past year. We chose a star word as a community and ours was fellowship.

When I reflect on our community in 2023, a renewed sense of fellowship comes to mind. We welcomed new members and visitors in our midst. Many of us gathered in Luther Hall to share a cup of coffee or a cookie. We shared lunch together as we said goodbye to Vicar Ryan. We sang karaoke, blessed animals, made Advent wreaths and decked Emanuel's sanctuary for Christmas.

Fellowship is defined as a friendly feeling that exists between people who have a shared interest or are doing something together as a group. I do think the Spirit has certainly guided us in this way, and I hope you have been able to feel that joy too.

Peace to your and yours,

Pastor Joanna



Epiphany Sunday, January 7th, bring your 2023 star word!

Please bring your 2023 star word with you on Sunday, January 7th. We'll reflect on how that word has spoken to us throughout the year. If you'd be willing to share a story, please let Pastor Joanna know.

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**—Thanks to Sara Anderson,
Neal Benson, & Ray Purtell
for sharing their photos
from St. Lucia Sunday!*

Lutheran Swag In the Street

By Campfield Heinrich

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Glastonbury, CT Ward
November 26, 2023

Having heard much about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS), or Mormons, as many frequently refer to them as, but not knowing a ton about how they worship, I decided to attend one of their services, or “sacrament meetings” as they call them, in late November. Drastically different from anything I had ever experienced at any other kind of church previously, and notably different from what I was used to at a Lutheran church, attending this sacrament meeting was a learning experience. Folks at the service were welcoming and I enjoyed talking with a few of them and learning more about their church community and theology before the service began.

The service was simple in its structure. With no formal clergy in the LDS Church, the service is led by a rotating group of lay people. There were a few traditional hymns and a couple prayers sprinkled throughout the service. In addition, the “sacrament” took place, which we would typically think of as communion, but consists of bread and water, instead of wine or grape juice, and notably an absence of the words of institution. There were also two twenty or so minute speeches, which I would not really call sermons, but more so a combination of a recap of events going on throughout the broader LDS Church with some theological points scattered throughout. While the experience was an interesting one, I can’t say I particularly felt filled with Spirit upon leaving that service, I felt more like I had sat through a business meeting as opposed to worship. This service, having been earlier in the morning, left me feeling as though I should attend what felt more like traditional worship to me later that day. This led me to a service later that morning at a church which I will explore in next month’s column.



God's Peace, *Campfield Heinrich*

MACC Food Pantry

MACC's Community Emergency Food Pantry continually needs community support to keep their shelves stocked so they may always provide families with the important staple items they need. Check out the need list for the best items to donate. All products must be unopened and within expiration dates.



Donations can be dropped off at the Community Food Pantry, 460 Main Street in Manchester. Monday 9 AM—3 PM, Tuesday & Thursday 9 AM—5 PM, Wednesday 9 AM—1 PM & Friday 9 AM—2 PM or donations can be left in the designated baskets located in the Narthex at Emanuel on Sunday morning.

Shampoo	Instant potatoes	Mayonnaise	Fresh fruit & veggies
Deodorant	Chili	Cake & Brownie mix	Dish detergent
Razors	Beef stew	Paper towels	Laundry Detergent
Shaving cream	Soup	Sugar	Baby wipes
Body soap	Canned veggies	Flour	Toilet paper
Body wash (liquid)	Jelly		

Are you the Chairperson of a Committee at Emanuel?

If so, it's time to write your report for inclusion in Emanuel's 2023 annual report to the congregation! We would love to include your report this year to highlight the ministries of Emanuel.

Please submit your report by email to Anne Heinrich (ahenrich@emanuelmanchester.org), NO LATER THAN Friday, January 5, 2024. 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!

ANNUAL REPORT



Saint Lucia Sunday and Advent 2023



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.

Would you like to serve on Altar Guild?

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



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.

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.



We need your help to spruce up our St. Lucia costumes! The white dresses need washing and new ribbons need to be sewn on (see photos on page 3). Are you willing and able to remove the ribbons, wash the dresses, and then sew fresh ribbons (supplied by us) to the dresses? There are also several attendant dresses without ribbon that could use new ribbons sewn on.

If you can volunteer to help with this project, please contact Danielle or Julie either in person or by email to familyministry@emanuelmanchester.org.

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, January 17th 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, January 16th.

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 2024 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. 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.

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> <i>No Sunday School</i> 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	1 CHP - Holiday Break NEW YEAR'S DAY - OFFICE CLOSED	2 CHP - Holiday Break	3 CHP - Holiday Break	4 CHP - Holiday Break 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	5 CHP - Holiday Break 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	6 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
7 <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> EPIPHANY 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	8 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting - LH	9	10 11:00am Staff Meeting	11 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	12 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	13 8:45am Music Together Class - CR 9:00am Financial Audit - LH
14 <i>Assisting Minister - Ben Hogue</i> <i>Children's Sermon during Worship Service</i> 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	15 CHP - No School MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY - OFFICE CLOSED Visitor newsletter deadline	16 7:00pm Council Meeting - via Zoom	17 8:30am Women's Breakfast - Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Worship & Arts Meeting - Library	18 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	19 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	20 8:45am Music Together Class - CR
21 <i>Assisting Minister - Ray Purcell</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:15am Annual Meeting of the Congregation - LH 11:30am Confirmation Class - Youth Room 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	22	23 7:00pm Emanuel Housing Corp. Meeting - LH	24 11:00am Staff Meeting	25 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	26 Visitor newsletter mailing 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	27 8:45am Music Together Class - CR
28 <i>Assisting Minister - Kathy Rusch</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 8:45am Music Together Class - CR

The Church Office will be CLOSED Monday December 25, 2023—Monday, January 1, 2024 and Monday, January 15, 2024.

2024 NE Synod Bishop Election—Update

A message from the New England Synod Bishop Election Team...

This month, we're reviewing the timeline for the bishop election process, so all are clear about what's happening and when certain processes will begin and end.

As a reminder, this information is available on the synod webpage dedicated to the election:

<https://www.nelutherans.org/bishopelection>

January - Synod Profile published

The Synod Profile (based on the Landscape Survey) and Position Description (taken from our synod constitution) will be released for review.

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.

March 20 - Pre-identified Person Information Due

Those whose names have been submitted will be contacted to determine if they are willing to discern a call to bishop. If so, they'll be asked to provide biographical details and a photograph, as well as information necessary for a background check.

April 15 - Pre-identified Persons Information Available on Synod Website

Biographical information and a photograph of each preidentified person choosing to move forward will be posted on the synod website for review.

June 5 - Pre-identified Persons Information Removed from Synod Website

Information will be removed from the website the day prior to Synod Assembly.

June 6 - Synod Assembly begins

The bishop election will proceed according to the rules set forth in the synod constitution. The first ballot will include the names of the preidentified persons, as well as offering voting members the opportunity to name a rostered minister who is not listed.

The Bishop Election Team encourages members of the synod to stay informed about the process and familiarize themselves with the information as it becomes available. We trust this will lead to well-informed voting members taking part in the election process at Synod Assembly.

Frank Cichon, Chair

The Rev. Jessica Chicka, The Rev. Karl Hester, Donna Kerry, Vice President of the Synod Council, Ade Monareh, Maydee Morales, The Rev. Duane Pederson, Martha Whyte, Synod Staff Liaison

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



Caring

January Birthdays (Emanuel Members 75+ yrs.)

Clinton Bowman	1/18
Loren Davis	1/19
Kent Carlson	1/21
Karen Kissman	1/22
Nancy Scott	1/24
Susan Oliver	1/30

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



Pastoral Acts

Funerals

Peggy Johnson
Martha Eddy
Doris Schoenfeld

Dear Church,
Thank you for allowing me to go to Camp Calumet. I like being able to try new things. I especially like boating. I also like playing 4-Square. I also like playing at Fenway and doing ultimate frisbee. I would love to go back with my cousins. Sorry for writing so late. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Robert Fournier



Parish Nurse Announcement

After serving 19 years in the volunteer position of Parish Nurse, Lynne Gustafson is retiring!

The congregation and staff would like to thank Lynne for her many years of dedicated service. She has helped many members of the congregation with her wealth of knowledge and connecting people to community resources. Lynne is most proud of the success of the Stephens Ministry Grief Program and the establishment

of the Parish Nurse Fund. Over the years, the monies from the fund have helped many people in the congregation as well as outreach to the wider community.

January will serve as a transition month and a new leader of the Parish Nurse program will take over. New connections will be made and new programs will be implemented. We'll celebrate Lynne's ministry and the Parish Nurse program in the spring.



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

(860) 643-1193

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barton.sattler@gmail.com

Rosemary Johnson
Co-Treasurer
rcjohnson77@gmail.com

Eric Carlson
Financial Secretary
eric.carlson4191@gmail.com

Berk Little and Kathy Rusch
Worship Support Specialists

SAVE THE DATE . . .

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, January 21, 2024

in Luther Hall

(immediately following the 10 AM worship service).



A light lunch will be served prior to the meeting. A Thrivent Action Team has been received to help offset the cost of the luncheon and a free will offering will be taken to support the Rev. William White Calumet Fund.

The fund is used to send kids from Emanuel to Calumet for a week of summer camp on the shores of Lake Ossipee in Freedom, NH. Last summer nine of our kids participated and we anticipate no fewer this year.

Your special offerings earmarked for the "Calumet Fund" can also be placed in the offering plate during worship on that day!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Emanuel Lutheran Church
60 Church Street
Manchester, CT 06040

