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Emanuel Lutheran Church



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



January 2025

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

One of the items on me and my husband Brett's bucket list was to see the northern lights—where the sky turns beautiful colors of pink, purple, green and blue. We always thought we'd have to travel, but it turned out, they came right over our house in Portland. Brett went outside to walk our dog, Nala and called all of us outside to stand in the street with our neighbors to see the ways the sky changed. There is something so magical about the night sky—if it's the colors of the northern lights or a clear night filled with stars.

This Advent, our congregation worked together to create Scandinavian stars that hung from our Advent wreath and in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. On Epiphany, we tell the story of how the Magi found Jesus by the leading of a star.

During worship on January 5, 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 2025 and to pay attention to how that word shows up for you through the year.

On January 5, we will choose a word for our community and see how and where the Spirit shows up with it. I hope you'll open yourself to it and see where the Spirit leads. On Epiphany 2026, 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.

A new year provides a fresh start and a start for us to see how the Spirit is at work. I can't wait to hear how the Spirit guides you and our community.

*Peace to you and yours,
Pastor Joanna*

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 and WFSB – CBS 3. So please check before you come to the church. We want everyone to be safe.

1

From the Pastor

2

Online Member Directory
Annual Report Submissions
Coffee Hours
Altar and Lectern Flowers

3

Winter Events for the Congregation
Camp Calumet

4

Events and Items of Interest

5

January 2025 Calendar

6

St. Lucia Sunday—photo gallery

7

St. Lucia Sunday—photo gallery

8

St. Lucia Sunday—photo gallery

9

St. Lucia Sunday—photo gallery

10

Cookies & Care Packages—
photo gallery

11

Caring

12

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

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

Events and Items of Interest

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 or 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

Are you the Chairperson of a Committee at Emanuel?

If so, it is time to write your report for inclusion in Emanuel's 2024 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 in the Church Office (aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org), NO LATER THAN Wednesday, January 8, 2025. 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!

Archived copies of 2022, 2023 & 2024 Visitor newsletters are available on our website: emanuelmanchester.org, under the password protected MEMBER ACCESS tab (pull down to "VISITOR NEWSLETTERS").

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. If you are willing to bring goodies, cream and/or milk and will stay to help clean up afterward, please sign up to host the coffee hour. Any leftover food may also be used for the following week's coffee hour.

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

2025 Altar and Lectern Flowers

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

Congregation Events—All Ages!

Save the Dates!

Board and Card Game Day

Join us at church on Saturday, January 18 at 2 PM for an afternoon filled with games! We'll have games for all ages, and you can bring your favorite to share, too! Contact Kate Seyboth (kathryn.seyboth@gmail.com) or Katie Kurlak (familyministry@emanuelmanchester.org) to let us know you're planning to attend.

JAN
18

FEB
8

Snow Tubing

Meet us on the mountain! We're getting a group together to go snow tubing on the afternoon of Saturday, February 8. Time is TBD. Please contact Pastor Joanna (pastorjoanna@emanuelmanchester.org) to RSVP!

Please contact Katie Kurlak at familyministry@emanuelmanchester.org if you have ideas for upcoming activities, or to get more information.

Help Send Our Kids to Camp!

Registration for summer camp at Calumet is underway. As an extension of our youth ministry, Emanuel has committed to provide camperships to help offset the cost of going to camp. In 2025, the full cost of a one week camp experience is \$1,080/week. We need your help and your generosity. **Please consider an additional donation to the Rev. Bill White Calumet Fund so that we have the monies needed to support our youth.**

In 2024, we sent six of our youth to overnight camp and one to Calumet's Day Camp. We awarded \$5,205 in camperships plus paid \$350 in registration fees, awarding a total of \$5,555 in assistance. We anticipate awarding this amount again this year and possibly more if additional kids decide to go to camp. That's a distinct possibility that we want to be prepared for.

Again, this year, we'll be taking a free will offering at the coffee hour preceding the annual meeting on January 26th. All proceeds will support Calumet camperships for our families. You can also make a donation online to the Rev. Bill White Calumet Fund.

Thanks for supporting this important and worthwhile ministry. Your generosity makes a real difference in the development of our youth.

A QR code has been added to the front cover of the bulletin, inside back cover of this newsletter, and on small cards placed in the pews of the sanctuary. If scanned, the code will take you directly to Emanuel's secure donation page. Once you are on the donation page, you can choose to designate your donation to a specific fund or the General Fund. We wanted to give people the option to easily donate online at any time. On the backside of the QR Code card in the pew is also a form you can fill out for prayer requests. You can drop the card in the offering plate and the church office and Pastor Joanna will receive your request.

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.



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, exit, and it is on the wall directly in front of you.

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

Women's Breakfast

**Wednesday, January 15th at 8:30 AM
Evergreen Crossings, RLC
900 Hemlock Avenue in South Windsor**

Cost per person is \$8. An RSVP to Lynne Gustafson: cgustafson01@snet.net is required by Tuesday, January 14th.

You are invited to attend the

**Annual Congregation Meeting
of Emanuel Lutheran Church**

Sunday, January 26, 2025

**Time: Immediately following the 10 AM
worship service**

Place: Luther Hall

A light lunch will be provided and a free will offering will be taken to support the Rev. William White Calumet Fund.

Meeting will include:

- Elections for Council and for the Endowment, Finance and Nominating Committees
- 2025 Budget adoption
- Presentation of Reports



Among Women/Entre Mujeres

New Year Potluck Celebration

Friday, January 10, 2025 from 7 – 9 PM

**Brandt Lounge of Concordia Lutheran Church
(40 Pitkin Street, Manchester)**

Sponsored by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC)

MNC will provide decorations, plates, cups, utensils, coffee and tea. Please RSVP to taverasluz@gmail.com if you would like to attend. Also, in your email please note what you would like to bring to share: an appetizer, salad, entree, dessert, or beverage.

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 and willing to volunteer, please use the electronic sign up. All Sundays from now through December 2025 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 ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org and let her know what date and what volunteer position you would like.

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> <i>No Sunday School</i> 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 5:00pm Christ Church Special Worship Service with the Bishop in the Sanctuary	30 CHRISTMAS WEEK - OFFICE CLOSED 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	31 CHRISTMAS WEEK - OFFICE CLOSED	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY - OFFICE CLOSED	2 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library	3 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	4
5 <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:30am Confirmation Class - Youth Room	6 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	7 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED	8 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	9 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	10 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	11
12 <i>Ailish Lazarus Baptism during worship</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Worship Service at Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor	13 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	14 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED	15 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter deadline 8:30am Women's Breakfast - Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor	16 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	17 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	18 2:00pm Congregation Event: Board/Card Game Day - LH
19 <i>Children's Sermon during worship - No Sunday School</i> 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary	20 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	21 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Council Meeting - LH	22 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	23 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	24 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	25 9:00am CLCC's Annual Meeting - LH
26 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:30am Annual Meeting of the Congregation - LH 11:30am Confirmation Class - Youth Room	27 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	28 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED	29 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	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

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.

St. Lucia Sunday — photo gallery

We recognized Saint Lucia on Sunday, December 15th with a processional during worship. This has been a tradition at Emanuel for many years and the children always look forward to participating. Along with the children, the congregation sang the hymn: "Sankta Lucia" in Swedish and English.



St. Lucia Sunday — photo gallery



St. Lucia Sunday — photo gallery



St. Lucia Sunday — photo gallery



Cookies and Care packages — photo gallery



Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 8th was busy, busy, busy!! We put together care packages for some of our homebound members. Thanks to everyone who baked, packaged the snacks, and helped deliver them! It was a great way to visit with some of our members who can't regularly make it to service. We also decorated cookies, which was fun for all ages! It was great to see everyone's creativity and enthusiasm! Some members got crafty making Scandinavian Star ornaments. It was a busy, but wonderful coffee hour!



On Saturday, December 7th, MACC's CEO, Shannon Baldassario, was invited to join Emanuel Women's Group: Ruth's Circle, for their annual holiday gathering, where they had brand new baby clothing of all sizes and colors they purchased for MACC to provide to families in need with infants and young children. In addition, they provided MACC with a \$225 monetary donation to support the Manchester community.

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

In May 2024, the congregation was invited to share things we believe God delights in. Below are what people wrote on the doves that were displayed on ribbons in the sanctuary.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♦ Logan | ♦ Zachary | ♦ The children in our congregation |
| ♦ Lucas | ♦ Caroline | ♦ Young people planning Earth Day celebrations |
| ♦ Each of us | ♦ New members | ♦ Everyone who worships here at Emanuel |
| ♦ Children's laughter | ♦ When a child hugs their parent and they squeeze with all their might | ♦ People who give freely |
| ♦ Children building friendships | ♦ Diversity of humankind made in his image | ♦ When great-grandparents find joy being with the little ones |
| ♦ How we and our family lead a Christian life | ♦ The spring flowers | ♦ First communion |
| ♦ Pastor Ryan's ordination | ♦ Carolyn | ♦ Rain sparkling on the trees and grass |
| ♦ All things in nature | ♦ Music | ♦ National Youth Gathering |
| ♦ God delights when people share their gifts – like the many leaders who were installed on Sunday | ♦ God delights in the pure joy and awe of a child experiencing something for the first time | ♦ When someone is blessed by receiving a Prayer Shawl |
| ♦ The sounds of birds singing in the morning as the world awakens | ♦ Pastor's wisdom | |
| ♦ Confirmands | ♦ Neighbors helping neighbors | |
| | ♦ Long time members | |

*Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members,
Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$737.69 to MACC Charities. For most, it is the difference between eating well and wondering where they will get their next meal. Your generous gift is needed and timely.*

Many Blessings, Shannon Baldassario, MACC CEO

*Dear Pastor Joanna Hertzog Betkoski and Parish Nurse, Donna Connolly,
I am sending you this offering in honor of how much love and support my mother, Barbara Bowman received when she struggled with health issues. It seemed like whenever I came home from Ohio to help or when she was in the hospital, Lynne Gustafson, the former parish nurse, the pastor or another member of the church was there.*

Everyone not only helped my mom, but also gave my dad, Clint Bowman, a much needed break. In this season of Thanksgiving, I wanted to send you something that hopefully will enable you to help more families.

*With love and appreciation,
Becky Reusser*



Emanuel Staff

(860) 643-1193

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Barton Sattler
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Jodi Eskin
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jeskin67@hotmail.com

Berk Little and Kathy Rusch
Worship Support Specialists



SAVE THE DATE . . .

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, January 26, 2025

in Luther Hall

(immediately following the 10 AM worship service).



A light lunch will be served prior to the meeting. 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.

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

