

60 Church Street Manchester, CT 06040

(860) 643-1193

website: www.emanuelmanchester.org

### January 2026

## **Emanuel Lutheran Church**



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

ISITOR





"And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another way."

— Matthew 2:12

Each year, around Epiphany, I try to create time to pull Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Home by Another Way* off my shelf and read her Epiphany sermon. She takes the story of the three Magi and practices the Jewish tradition of Midrash—exploring the Bible by telling stories and asking creative questions to uncover deeper meanings beyond the literal words. It's a beautiful sermon.

We often think about the Magi as kings who bringing lavish gifts to the Christ child. But they were astrologers, ones who studied the stars, who were on the outside as fortune tellers. They go to Herod after seeing the star asking where the new King was born. Herod asks them to come back to tell him where this King is-not because he wants to pay his respects but because his power is threatened by the idea of a new leader and wants to put a stop to it.

After finding Jesus, the Magi are warned in a dream not to return to Herod. So they do something quite courageous. They listen. They trust what they have been shown. And they go home by another way.

"Going home by another way" is what we can so often be called to do by God as a community and in our lives. It doesn't mean we abandon our lives, but it means to we return to them transformed. We approach our lives with new eyes as we choose a path that is shaped by mercy rather than fear.

The Epiphany, even a new year, invites us to be transformed. To ask ourselves—where has Christ met us? What roads are no longer shaped by mercy. What new way is God inviting us to take?

May we have the wisdom to listen—and the faith to follow—home by another way.

Peace to you and yours, Pastor Joanna

### From the Pastor

# Why Support Calumet Ministries? **ELC Annual Reports ELC Book Club** Annual Meeting of the Congregation Altar & Lectern Flowers 4 Events and Items of Interest 5 January 2026 Calendar **Thrivent Choice Dollars** 6 Coffee Hours Caring Concordia Lutheran Church Concert **FME Concert**

From the Pastor

Insert: Music From the Heart-**Benefit Concert** Saint Lucia Sunday—Photos

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

### Epiphany Worship—Sunday, January 4

the narthex for a few weeks after January 4.

We will celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 4. You are invited to bring your star word for 2025 with you, and we will hear stories of how those words shaped people's year. We will have an opportunity to choose a new star word for 2026. If you aren't in worship, we will have star words in a basket in

### 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 on the television on WVIT-NBC 30 and WFSB-CBS 3. Please check before you come to the church. We want everyone to be safe.



# **Why Support Calumet Ministries?**

### Why Support Calumet Ministries—My Story

My parents divorced when I was five years old. Despite their best efforts, the next several years of my life were full of change and uncertainty. As a young child, I had little, if any, control over the circumstances that followed which led to frequent moves, school changes, housing insecurity and general disruption.

After the divorce, my mom joined a church within walking distance of our new home in Roslindale, MA: Messiah Lutheran Church. We were welcomed into the congregation, often attending worship services, potluck suppers and other functions. As part of their ministry, the good people of the congregation made my mom aware of the church-affiliated camp in Freedom, New Hampshire; Camp Calumet. They asked if I'd like to attend for a week of overnight camp; escaping the summer heat of Boston while spending time on the beautiful shores of Lake Ossipee. Family finances were a concern and a potential barrier to participation so the congregation offered to pay the full week's tuition and a nice family from the church even offered to drive me there and pick me up! (You see, my mom did not have either a driver's license or a car. In her world, she was completely dependent on public transportation and friends for long distance travel.)

So what happened? In 1965, a young, naïve, insecure seven year old boy set off for summer camp only knowing that adults promised that it would be fun. The week was full of boating, field sports, camp-wide games, crafts, and living in a cabin with several other boys all having the shared experience of being away from home at summer camp for the first time. It was fun! Because the camp was church affiliated, the week also included daily bible study and vespers taught and led by teenaged counselors. So where was God in all of this? Most importantly, he was present in the people, mostly young people serving as counselors and teachers, who were living in Christian community. They made me feel loved, liked, accepted, special, and important...that I mattered. I felt as though I was "love bombed". I felt safe, secure and free of the stress and uncertainty that were associated with a home that was fractured by divorce.

That camp experience, which I believe was God acting through His people, was transformational for me. I continued to attend camp as a camper for eight years, after which I served on its staff for five years. I had the good fortune to meet the young woman that would become my wife, now of 45 years, there. Both of our children attended the camp and worked on staff. The camp experience jump started and sustained my faith journey through childhood and adolescence. As an adult, that camp experience led me to be an active member of my local Lutheran congregation wherever we lived. For the past 30 years, my church home has been Emanuel Lutheran Church.

So why share this story? My experience is just one example of the impact that the youth ministry at Calumet has on kids. Calumet's ministry is impactful, transformational and life changing. Here at Emanuel, we help kids go to camp by providing camperships that help defray the cost. During the month of January, we encourage members to support this ministry by making a contribution to the Rev. William White Calumet Fund. There will also be a free will offering at the luncheon that precedes the annual meeting on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Please give generously as you are able.

The good people of Messiah Lutheran Church will never know the full impact of their decision to send a young, vulnerable child to summer camp. Their generosity was guided by faith and God's love. At Emanuel, we have that same opportunity; a chance to bring our faith to life by sending our kids to summer camp. It's an honor to be able to support this important ministry. I hope that you will join me and give generously as you are able.

Ray Purtell

#### Are you the Chairperson of a Committee at Emanuel?

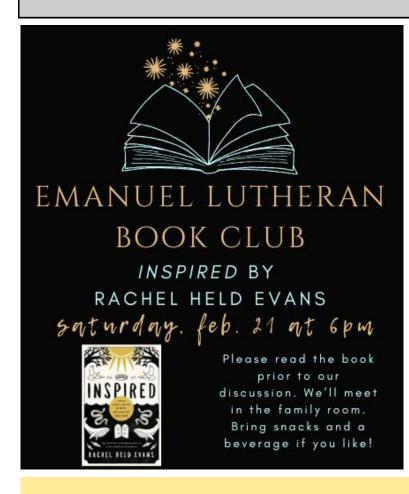
If so, this is a reminder that it's time to write your report for inclusion in Emanuel's 2025 annual report to the congregation! We would love to include your report this year to highlight the ministries of Emanuel.

Please submit your report by email to Anne Heinrich in the Church Office (<a href="mailto:aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org">aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org</a>), 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!



# Emanuel Book Club, ELC Annual Meeting, 2026 Flowers



### SAVE THE DATE . . .

# Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, January 25, 2026



### 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!

For more information about what will be included on the meeting agenda, please see page four of the *Visitor*.

### The 2026 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:
  <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Zmt\_2tljVscckRJ7iw-wg3axc-NMNrMkXzH38Mn5Y-0/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Zmt\_2tljVscckRJ7iw-wg3axc-NMNrMkXzH38Mn5Y-0/edit?usp=sharing</a>
- ◆ 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-NCvkCZ9GkSqw/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 <a href="mailto:pastorjoanna@emanuelmanchester.org">pastorjoanna@emanuelmanchester.org</a> 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 <a href="mailto:aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org">aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org</a> 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.

### Safe Church Training Sunday, January 4th at 11:30 AM in the Family Room

All are welcome to join us for Safe Church Training where we talk about our policies on how we keep our children and youth safe. The training will include information specific to Emanuel's policy as well as offering a chance to talk through specific scenarios. This training will focus on Children and Youth. All members of Emanuel are welcome to attend.

# The Hem Hangout with Alexa on the first Wednesday of each month (1/7/26) from 6:30 – 8:30 PM in 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

Annual Congregation Meeting of Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 25, 2026

<u>Time</u>: Immediately following the 10 AM worship service

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
- 2026 Budget adoption
- Presentation of Reports

# 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: <a href="mailto:members.instantchurchdirectory.com">members.instantchurchdirectory.com</a>. If you need assistance setting up your account, please email Anne: aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org

# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	29 OFFICE CLOSED - CHRISTMAS WEEK  10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	30 OFFICE CLOSED - CHRISTMAS WEEK	31 OFFICE CLOSED - CHRISTMAS WEEK	1 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY	2 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	3
4  Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier  10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room  10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary  1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	5 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	6 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED	7 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 6:30pm The Hem Hangout - LH	8 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	9 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room
11 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 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	12 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting - LH	13 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom	14 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	15 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED Visitor newsletter deadline 10:00am Bible Study - Library 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	16 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	17 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room
18  Children's Sermon during worship - No Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary 4:00pm Quercus String Quartet Concert and Reception - Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin St., Manchester	19 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	20 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Council Meeting - LH	21 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	22 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	23 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room
25  10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room  10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary  11:30am Annual Meeting of the Congregation - LH  1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	26 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	27 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Emanuel Housing Corp. Meeting - LH	28 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter mailing	29 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	30 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room 7:00pm FME Chamber Music Concert Series - Albert Cano Smit, Pianist

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



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.

# FROMTHE

HEART

60 Church St., Manchester, CT 06040

### **SAVE THE DATE!!!—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!





















### **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

#### 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 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.

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—DO IT YOURSELF**

- ♦ Visit Thrivent.com
- ◆Log in by entering your user ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on <u>Thrivent.com</u>, 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".

### 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. We have several upcoming projects that need additional funding including sending kids to camp, MACC's seasonal sharing, and our church budget. Thrivent Choice Dollars can help! Please make the time. It will make a meaningful difference. You'll be glad you did.

Please note that Thrivent advises that between January 15 and March 30, all undesignated accrued Choice Dollars for 2025 will be posted to your account. After January 15, you can designate your remaining balance all at once!

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 Ray Purtell: Purt1015@gmail.com.









Baptism of John
Bear Wilhelm,
(Joy) Advent
Candle Lighting,
and Bell Choir
performance—
Sunday, 12/14/25

Sunday

### 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/1YKFVJbX8HdJsFGkRaQfvndhTMmffSvvDNgYHcs3sCAE/edit?usp=sharing
- Call or email Anne in the Church Office: 860-643-1193 or <a href="mailto:aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org">aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org</a>

# Caring

## January Birthdays (Emanuel Members 75+ yrs.)

James Auger	1/14	Kent Carlson	1/21
Clinton Bowman	1/18	Karen Kissman	1/22
Loren Davis	1/19	Nancy Scott	1/24



Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members.

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,141.49 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.

The impact of your generosity will be felt by many in our community, bringing comfort and hope to those who need it most.

Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of many. As we reflect over the last year, MACC realizes its greatest strength comes from the support and partnership of people like you. People who are passionate about creating a community where everyone feels they belong. Thank you!!!

Many Blessings, Shannon Baldassario—CEO

To the members of Emanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the beautiful shawl you made for Kaylin. It has become a wonderful keepsake for our family and will help keep her memory alive. So very thoughtful. Your kindness and sympathy was deeply appreciated.

Thank you— From the Family of Kaylin Anne Mitchell





### **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 January: MACC Charities

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 <a href="https://www.emanuelmanchester.org">www.emanuelmanchester.org</a>.



Emanuel Staff (860) 643-1193

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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



### Concordia Lutheran Church invites you to ..



featuring Antonín Dvořák's 'American' String Quartet and other music inspired by and written in the United States





FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT EMANUEL CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES 2025 - 2026

# Saturday, January 31, at 7 pm



Come, experience
the sophisticated
musicality of this
award-winning
Spanish/Dutch pianist,
known for
captivating
performances of
storytelling quality

# Albert Cano Smit

FREE ADMISSION

DONATIONS WELCOMED

### EMLANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

60 Church Street, Manchester, CT 860 - 643-1193

FriendsofMusicatEmanuel@gmail.com

www.FriendsOfMusicAtEmanuel. org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

