



60 Church Street
Manchester, CT 06040

(860) 643-1193

website: www.emanuelmanchester.org

June 2026

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

Since the annual meeting, we have had post its hanging in Luther Hall that answered the questions "what is breaking your heart?" and "what is bringing you joy?" When we share what is breaking our hearts and what is bringing us joy, we remind one another that no one carries life alone. In our church community, people named grief, loneliness, injustice, fear for our country, illness, and concern for those who are suffering or excluded. Others shared joy found in family, music, prayer, nature, friendship, acts of kindness, and gathering together in faith. These reflections show the full humanity of our community. Here are the full lists. I pray that it helps you to know you are not alone and that God continues to call us and walk with us.

What is breaking our heart?

- ◆ ICE (3 times)
- ◆ Dehumanizing immigrants
- ◆ The lack of compassion from our government leaders
- ◆ Seeing what's going on in our country today with our government
- ◆ Dehumanizing immigrants
- ◆ The current political policies and how the many poor and disadvantaged are being hurt... and how we are not doing enough as individuals
- ◆ The state of our nation
- ◆ Recent loss of my mom
- ◆ The leadership in our country
- ◆ Christian nationalism
- ◆ When my hair gets pulled
- ◆ Hunger
- ◆ Homelessness
- ◆ The lack of personal responsibility by many people in our society
- ◆ Litter
- ◆ Cats scratching me
- ◆ When people are treated poorly
- ◆ Loneliness
- ◆ Starvation and war
- ◆ The continued belief that gender and skin color determine a person's value
- ◆ Racism and unkind people
- ◆ War, factions, and propagation of aggression and ill will
- ◆ Unrest in the world
- ◆ America's coming demise
- ◆ The increasing violence and growing divide within community
- ◆ The actions of the leadership of our government
- ◆ Watching the continued actions of our government tear children from their families and violently assault our people
- ◆ The negative politics in our country
- ◆ My sick friend
- ◆ The state of our country (our president)
- ◆ The plight of challenges our son in law and grandchildren face daily
- ◆ One of our youth told me that January was tough and kids are angry. I wish we could do more together to support youth

1

From the Pastor

2

Stewardship Monthly Moment
Congregation Getaway Weekend
Altar and Lectern Flowers

3

From the Pastor (continued)

4

Events and Items of Interest

5

June 2026 Calendar

6

Special Offering Envelopes
Endowment Funds Requests
Queer & Christian
Rocks of Kindness Garden

7

Youth Sunday—photos

8

Spring Events—photos

9

Caring

10

Celebrating LGBTQ+ Art concert
Young Adults—Last Thursdays

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

Stewardship Monthly Moment

Stewardship isn't just something we talk about in the fall, it's a year-round practice of discipleship!

This monthly reflection, written by members of Emanuel's Stewardship Committee, invites us to connect generosity, gratitude, and faith with the rhythms of our everyday lives and seasons.



Everyday Generosity

Faith doesn't always look dramatic. More often, it looks like consistency. The same goes for generosity. Both are about showing up. It's contributing what you can. It's choosing, again and again, to be part of something bigger than yourself.

Sometimes churches focus on the big moments like campaigns, goals, milestones. But the truth is, ministry is sustained by *everyday* generosity and *everyday* faith. The quiet, steady commitment of people who believe this community matters.

As summer begins, routines shift. Travel, schedules, rhythms change. And still, the life of the church continues: worship, care, outreach, formation. *Thanks be to God!* Stewardship in this season might simply be about staying connected. It might be simply continuing to support what you value, even as life looks a little different.

Nurtured by the Holy Spirit, continued, consistent acts of faith and generosity, over time, become something much larger than we might imagine yet something God has envisioned the whole time. Take a moment to reflect and pray: where do I find consistency in faith and generosity? How has that consistency impacted both me and my neighbor? What am I noticing that has gotten bigger than I imagined and that I can give God thanks for?

Congregational Getaway Weekend at Camp Calumet in NH—August 21- 23, 2026

We're having an intergenerational getaway weekend at Camp Calumet on August 21-23!

The weekend will begin with Holden Evening prayer at 7 PM on Friday (it's ok if you'll be late!) and end with lunch on Sunday. We will have time to rest, explore the local area, swim, boat, worship and learn together. There will be time for adults to connect with one another and their faith and time for kids to hear the stories of God and God's people.



Please sign up in the narthex if you're interested in going, fill out a registration form and return it to Pastor Joanna along with a \$100 deposit to hold your spot. Checks should be made out to *Emanuel Lutheran Church* with "Calumet Retreat" on the memo line.

You may also pay online with a credit or debit card: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4JY/home>. Click on the "pay now" button on the "August 2026 Calumet Congregation Retreat" tile and enter *2026 Calumet Retreat* in the required memo box.

The 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:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1N7YC_4StAVRRQGedU4_xUewyRK4VnsT1elyJR9GKLa4/edit?usp=sharing
- ◆ Call or email Anne in the Church Office: 860-643-1193 or ahleinrich@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.

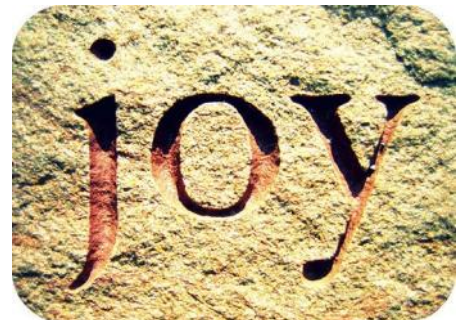
The online link is: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BtdtsMiKUnTFv_xz4Gh5iBsH71H0j4sF_JQ8P02_mik/edit?usp=sharing

- ◆ When my kids have real and deep sadness
- ◆ Watching a family member struggle with an unknown illness
- ◆ Family/relationship struggles
- ◆ Seeing when we close ourselves off from each other
- ◆ It breaks my heart that so many people these days lack empathy for others and are prone to dishonesty
- ◆ Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for God's law is not obeyed—Psalm 119
- ◆ Memories provide the greatest of joys to revisit, but also remind us of lost loved ones

What is bringing us joy?

- ◆ Kindness, music
- ◆ My little brother
- ◆ Being able to sing and pray with people
- ◆ Dancing and family
- ◆ My boyfriend and family
- ◆ My e-bike
- ◆ I love mama!
- ◆ Pets
- ◆ God is a miracle
- ◆ A beautiful bluebird sky day and sunshine
- ◆ Children finding one another and building a community and friendships
- ◆ Dogs and cats
- ◆ Community
- ◆ Caring together in communion of others to work for common good
- ◆ Having and watching children of all ages returning to church
- ◆ Having time to slow down and do things I enjoy, like read and work on my latch hook kit
- ◆ Intimate fellowship
- ◆ Music and family
- ◆ Baking bread
- ◆ It gives me joy when my whole family is able to be together
- ◆ Seeing my children engage in things they are passionate about

- ◆ Music and when my children thrive
- ◆ My family and my church family
- ◆ My family, my church, my friends
- ◆ Gathering together as a church community
- ◆ Sunrise
- ◆ Good health
- ◆ Service every week, it keeps me grounded and hopeful
- ◆ Enjoying the beauty of the world God created (sunrise/sunset, flowers, fall foliage, snow, newborn babies)
- ◆ Watching my granddaughter when she learns something new and wants to let everyone know
- ◆ The sun and flowers
- ◆ Helping others generously
- ◆ Beyonce
- ◆ Good health
- ◆ The sky—clouds, sunset, snow, stars
- ◆ Helping others find joy
- ◆ Family
- ◆ Calm beautiful sunset, starry night
- ◆ Making my brother giggle
- ◆ Truth is proclaimed and washes over the church
- ◆ Pastor Joanna being willing to thread the needle so we can be brave enough to have tough conversations
- ◆ Gathering with good friends
- ◆ Walking outdoors
- ◆ Christians fighting injustice
- ◆ Your memory is proof of your attachment to another. Joy, happy, memories bring light to life



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 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 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 aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org 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.

Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC), is a Latinx/Latiné open and affirming ministry that welcomes all. MNC holds worship in the Community Room at Emanuel on the **first Sunday of every month at 12 noon.** Everyone from Emanuel is invited to attend. All ages are welcome!



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: members.instantchurchdirectory.com. If you need assistance setting up your account, please email Anne: aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org



Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering **Wednesday, June 10th at 12 noon in Luther Hall**

All knitters and crocheters are invited to join us for a time of knitting and fellowship. *A light lunch will be served.*

If you would like to learn how to knit a prayer shawl, you are welcome to join us for instruction on how to make one on your own! If you have any questions, please contact Doris Johnson 860-871-1498 or Norma Wirta 860-875-5163.

THE HEM HANGOUT

New to Sewing? **Working on a project?**

Join us to learn how to sew anything from satchels to clothing or simply come join for community as we sew together.
Please bring functional equipment.

First Wednesday of the Month.
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
60 Church St.
Manchester, CT 06040

Questions? Contact jagianio@gmail.com

June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 <i>Assisting Minister - Kathy Rusch</i> THE HOLY TRINITY 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH 11:30am RIC Education Event - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary	1 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	2 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED	3 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 6:30pm The Hem Hangout - LH	4 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED <i>New England Synod Assembly - DCU Center - Worcester, MA</i> 10:00am Bible Study - Library	5 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED <i>New England Synod Assembly - DCU Center - Worcester, MA</i> 10:00am ACT - LH	6 <i>New England Synod Assembly - DCU Center - Worcester, MA</i> 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room
7 <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH 12:00pm Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) Worship Service - Community Room 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary 1:30pm Worship Service at Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor 4:00pm Celebration Liturgy of Concordia's 132 Years of Ministry at Concordia Lutheran Church - 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester (Reception in Kaiser Hall will follow worship)	8 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	9 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom	10 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 12:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering - LH	11 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm Celebrating LGBTQ+ Art Concert - Sanctuary	12 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am ACT - LH	13 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room
14 <i>Assisting Minister - Adela Garmendia</i> 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH 11:30am Finance Committee meeting - Community Room 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary	15 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter deadline 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	16 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 7:00pm Council Meeting - LH	17 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am FME Board Meeting - LH	18 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library	19 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED (JUNETEENTH) 10:00am ACT - LH	20 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room 12:00pm Hatch Family Birthday Gathering - LH
21 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary 2:00pm Worcester Renaissance Music Group Rehearsal - CR	22 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	23 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED	24 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	25 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 7:00pm Gather CT: Last Thursdays - Parkville Market, 1400 Park Street, Hartford (RSVP: tinyurl.com/gatherCTthur)	26 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am ACT - LH	27 9:00am Grow With Me Music - MR
28 <i>Assisting Minister - Ray Purtell</i> 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary	29 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter mailing 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	30 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED	1 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 6:30pm The Hem Hangout - LH	2 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library	3 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED (FOURTH OF JULY) 10:00am ACT - LH	4

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.

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

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 June: NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

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 www.emanuelmanchester.org.

The Endowment Committee is accepting applications for distributions from Emanuel's four endowment funds: Christian Education, Extended Ministries, Music Endowment, and Structural Preservation.

Interested applicants should follow guidelines found on page 2 of the application. Please also read page 2 of the application to ensure that you are requesting monies from the proper endowment fund.

Applications should be typed and should be submitted electronically via email to ahenrich@emanuelmanchester.org no later than Friday, June 12, 2026.

The online application is available as a fillable PDF on the weekly update.

If you are unable to fill out the application online and submit it electronically, printed copies of the application are available in the narthex and the church office. Handwritten applications can be given to Anne in the church office also by Friday, June 12th.

Please note: Members of Emanuel should consider internal needs for Christian Education, Music, and Structural Preservation; members are welcome to share the Extended Ministries opportunity with external non-profits.

Specific questions regarding the endowment funds can be directed to Patrick Byrne: pbyrne810@gmail.com

Queer & Christian

**Asylum Hill Congregational Church, 814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
Wednesday, June 17, 2026 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

Come hear Rev. Brandan Robertson, author, activist, and public theologian known for his inclusive spiritual content on social media. He serves as pastor of Sunnyside Reformed Church in NYC. A leading voice for LGBTQ+ inclusion in faith communities, he's been featured by TIME, CNN, and Out Magazine's OUT100.

Rev. Brandan Robertson is an acclaimed author, activist, and public theologian working at the intersection of spirituality, sexuality, and social renewal. He serves as Pastor of Sunnyside Reformed Church in New York City and Theologian-in-Residence at Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ in Miami, Florida. An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, he is also the Founder and Executive Director of DevOUT, a nonprofit dedicated to countering far-right religious narratives and amplifying inclusive theological voices through media and education.

Known widely as the “TikTok Pastor,” Robertson’s digital ministry reaches nearly 400,000 followers and millions of viewers worldwide. He has authored or contributed to more than twenty books on faith and justice, including True Inclusion: Creating Communities of Radical Embrace, an INDIES Book of the Year Award finalist. His work has been featured by TIME Magazine, NBC, CNN, and The Washington Post, and he has spoken at venues such as the White House, Oxford University, and the Parliament of the World’s Religions.

A passionate advocate for LGBTQ+ equality, Robertson was named to Rolling Stone’s “Hot List” and Out Magazine’s 2025 OUT100. He lives in New York City and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies at Drew University.



In summer it is always time to replenish the rocks in Emanuel's Rock Garden of Kindness!

Our Kindness Rock Garden makes a difference in blessing the lives of people passing by. Rocks are usually taken within a few days of being put out. If you can paint a few rocks and either place them in the garden or bring them to the church office, (where they will be treated with a protectant spray), we would be grateful.

If you have any small, blank rocks at home that you could donate to be painted on, please bring them to the church office. Your kindness is appreciated!



Youth Sunday—April 26, 2026



Property Spring Clean-Up Day—May 2, 2026



**Bea Santiago,
Field Education
Seminar Student
Farewell Blessing—
May 10, 2026**



**Easter Sunday—
April 5, 2026**



**Gender & Sexuality 101:
RIC Coffee Hour—
May 3, 2026**



Caring

June Birthdays (Emanuel Members 75+ yrs.)

Marilyn Labanowski	6/3
Maylord Hempstead	6/5
Charles Billmyer	6/22
Joyce Halmers	6/29



This session's Bible study with Bea Santiago has breath prayers. This week's is from Matthew 11:28, "Lord I am weary. Come give me rest." Boy is that appropriate! Trying to keep functions running at a church going through Holy Closure is exhausting!

Thank you Diane Gawlinski for realizing that and coordinating people from Emanuel to help with the Highland Park School Teacher's Appreciation Tea.

Thank you everyone who helped set-up, bake, serve, and clean-up. It was wonderful to work alongside Diane, Jake (Auger), Kris (Fournier), and Helen (Johnson).

Please let everyone know how much we appreciated the baked goods and sandwiches. It is always easier to do these events when you have many hands.

We are grateful for all the support from Emanuel.

Peace, Ruth Sprong Heyden (from Concordia Lutheran Church)

Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,978.03 to MACC Charities.

I want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for your continued support of MACC Charities.

We recognize that these are challenging times in today's socioeconomic climate. Thanks to you, we are not only sustaining vital programs, we are expanding hope, fostering resilience, and creating pathways toward a more equitable future.

Thank you, Shannon Baldassario, CEO

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/1YKFVJbX8HdJsFGkRaQfvndhTMmffSyyDNqYHcs3sCAE/edit?usp=sharing>
- ◆ Call or email Anne in the Church Office: 860-643-1193 or aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org

Nametags—Are you a member of Emanuel or attend worship on a regular basis? We would love to make you a magnetic nametag to wear on Sunday mornings for worship! If you don't already have one, or need a new one, please sign up on the sheet on the bookcase by the ramp or in the narthex. You may also contact Kathy Rusch in person or by email: krusch2@comcast.net



Emanuel Staff

(860) 643-1193

Pastor Joanna Hertzog Betkoski
pastorjoanna@emanuelmanchester.org

Anne Heinrich
Office Administrator
aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org

Jeff Sirois
Director of Music
jsirois@emanuelmanchester.org

Katie Kurlak
Director of Family Ministries
familyministry@emanuelmanchester.org

Donna Connolly
Parish Nurse
parishnurse@emanuelmanchester.org

Kathy Hatch
Property Supervisor
Khatch4@gmail.com

Barton Sattler
Treasurer
treasurer@emanuelmanchester.org

Gail McGrath and Kathy Rusch
Co-Financial Secretaries
financialsecretary@emanuelmanchester.org

Berk and Lisa Little
Worship Support Specialists



CELEBRATING LGBTQ+ ART

*Music for, about, and
by LGBTQ+
Individuals*

Join us for an evening of pride, music, and togetherness!

In honor of pride month, Emanuel Lutheran Church is hosting an evening of celebration for LGBTQ+ history, joy, and love through music.

- Live performances by local LGBTQ+ artists
- Eclectic selection of music across styles and time periods
- Reception after performance in Luther Hall to foster conversation and connection

6 PM – 8 PM
Thursday, June 11

Emanuel Lutheran Church
60 Church Street
Manchester, CT

Free Admission



LAST THURSDAYS

Join young adults across CT for food and fellowship on the last Thursday of each month!

MAY 28, JUNE 25, JULY 30,
& AUG 27 AT 7PM

PARKVILLE MARKET
1400 Park St. Hartford
0000

RSVP

tinyurl.com/gatherCTthur



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Emanuel Lutheran Church
60 Church Street
Manchester, CT 06040

