IN-PERSON & ONLINE







Emanuel Lutheran Church

A member of the New England Synod of the ELCA (a "Reconciling In Christ" Congregation)

60 Church Street, Manchester, CT 06040 (860) 643-1193 Fax (860) 645-0830

www.emanuelmanchester.org



This worship service is broadcast live on Zoom, recorded and the full worship service is uploaded to You Tube. In alignment with our safe church policy and with recommendation from the ELCA, anytime children are present in front of the camera, the recording device will blur faces. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Joanna.

Service of Lessons & Carols

10:00 AM

December 28, 2025



Please rise, in body or in spirit, at the points indicated by *.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

The light shines in the darkness, And the darkness has not overcome it. Pastor:

The Word became flesh and lived among us,

and we have beheld Christ's glory.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In the Word was life, And the life was the light of all people.

All: Amen.

The congregation is invited to ring their bells during this hymn.



Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

*Greeting

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion

of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers.

As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives

and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Reading—Luke 1:26-38

Leader: The holy gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

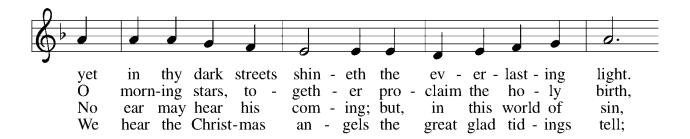
Leader: The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, O Christ.

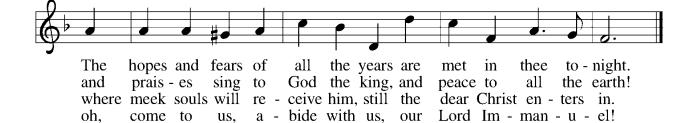


For Christ is born of and, gath - ered bove Mar V, all a -How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n! ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go an - gels keep their watch of while mor-tals sleep, the won-d'ring love. So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n. to - day. out our sin, and en - ter be born in cast in, us





Second Reading—Luke 2:4-7

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

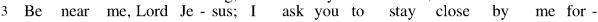
Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord 2 The cat - tle are low-ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord





Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the the bright sky looked stars cry - ing Je - sus, no he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look love me. pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in ev - er and Ι



lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on down where he lay, the the hav. down from the and cra - dle till morn-ing sky stay by my vour ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905

Third Reading—Luke 2:8-16

Leader: The holy gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

Prayers of the People

AM: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

To the words: "Hear us, O God.," the congregation responds: "Your mercy is great."

AM: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

Offertory Music

*Offertory Prayer

Pastor: God of glory, great are your wonders among us

and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,

that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,

through Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

*Holy Communion

Pastor: The Lord be with you. All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join

their unending hymn:

*Holy, Holy, Holy



Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*The Words of Institution

*The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our

trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,

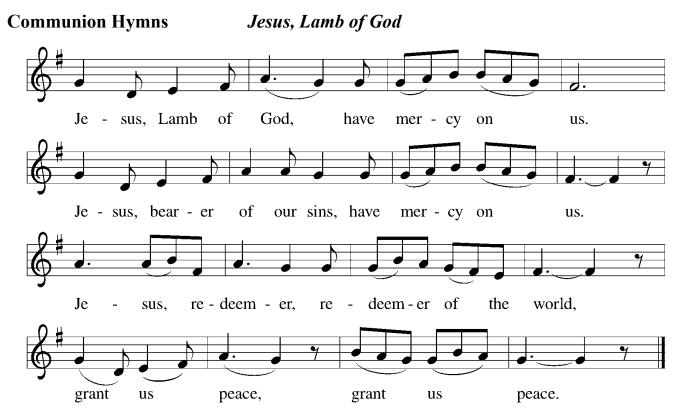
forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Holy Communion

Pastor: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

All: Amen.

All are welcome to receive communion—if this is your first time receiving or your 500th time receiving. In this meal, Jesus meets us in and through the bread and wine. Communion will be offered in a continuous style in front of the altar. We'll commune with two lines simultaneously from both sides of the sanctuary, moving from the front to the back, you are invited to come forward to receive. You will receive a wafer. We have a gluten free option available. On each side, there will be a tray of cups of red wine and of white grape juice. After you drink the wine/juice, please dispose of your cup in the receptacles on the sides of the sanctuary. If you are unable to come forward, we are happy to bring communion to you. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.



Music: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.



- 1 Cold De cem ber flies a way at the rose red splen dor.
- 2 In the hope less time of sin shad ows deep had fall en.
- 3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a wak ens.



A - pril's crown-ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing. In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



un - seen pow'r at the ho - ly of the tree which bears the But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en And it spreads to from the all the earth mo - ment of



flow'r. On the bless-ed tree blooms the red-dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the light brings un-end-ing joy, brings the end-less joy of our hope, high - est birth; and its beau-ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry. hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en. spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

Text: Catalonian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953 Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalonian carol Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ELW 272



Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599

*Post Communion Prayer

AM: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.

May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence.

Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

All: Amen.

*Blessing

Pastor: The triune God,

glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One,

abiding Comforter,

+ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

All: Amen.

*Sending Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

The congregation is invited to ring their bells during this hymn.



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;





- While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone ly man ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



light. be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly that hailed our Sav-ior's the an - gel cho-rus birth. rang out and God sent that bless-ed Christ-mas us sal - va - tion morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

*Dismissal

AM: Glory to God in the highest!

All: And peace to God's people on earth!

AM: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Ding Dong Merrily On High The congregation is invited to ring their bells during the postlude.

Ding dong, merrily on high! In heav'n the bells are ringing; ding dong, verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.

Gloria, hosannah in excelsis! Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, And io, io, io, by priest and people sungen.

Gloria, hosannah in excelsis! Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

Pray ye dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; may ye beautifully rhyme your evetime song, ye singers.

Gloria, hosannah in excelsis! Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Assisting Minister: Beverly Niemann

Ushers: Richard Marsh, Pat Nelson, Marianne Wilcox, 1 volunteer needed

Communion Assistants: 2 volunteers needed

Lector: Marianne Wilcox

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Hearing Assistance devices are available in the lobby. Many people who have difficulty hearing, and even people attending worship who happen to sit in an audio "dead spot" in the sanctuary could benefit from using a Hearing Assistance device during the service. If you would like to give one a try, please ask an usher for assistance.

If you are visiting with us this morning, we would love for you to fill out a Welcome Card!

Cards are located on the table next to the guest book in the narthex. If you need assistance, an usher can direct you. You can share your name, phone number and email with us as well as let us know if you have a prayer request that you would like printed on our prayer list, or if you would like to be added to our email communications list to receive our monthly newsletter and Friday Weekly Update emails. Cards can be left in the basket located next to the cards, given to an usher, or placed in the offering plate.

Epiphany of Our Lord Scripture Readings—Sunday, January 4, 2026:

Isaiah 60:1-6

Nations come to the light

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

All kings shall bow down before him. (Ps. 72:11)

Ephesians 3:1-12

The gospel's promise extends to all

Matthew 2:1-12

Revelation of Christ to the nations of the earth

Emanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH Staff

Church Office: 860-643-1193

Joanna Hertzog Betkoski, Pastor Jeff Sirois, Director of Music

Bea Luciano, Field Education Student

Anne Heinrich, Office Administrator

Katie Kurlak, Director of Family Ministries Donna Connolly, Parish Nurse

Kathy Hatch, Property Supervisor Barton Sattler, Treasurer

Berk Little, Worship Support Specialist Kathy Rusch, Worship Support Specialist

Reminder to Members and Friends of Emanuel

Emanuel will be closing its financial books for the year on Wednesday, December 31, 2025. If you want your donation to be credited to your account and included on your giving statement for this year, **we need to receive it by TODAY, Sunday, December 28th.** Any donations received after this date will be posted in 2026. Thank you for your generosity and support!

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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 AM – 2 PM. The office is CLOSED on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The office is CLOSED through Thursday, 1/1/26. The office will reopen on Friday, 1/2/26.

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! You should have received an email about this from Anne Heinrich on Friday, 12/12/25. 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 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!

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: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12mt_2tljVscckRJ7iw-wg3axc-NMNrMkXzH38Mn5Y-0/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 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-NCykCZ9GkSqw/edit?usp=sharing

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/1YKFVJbX8HdJsFGkRaQfvndhTMmffSyvDNqYHcs3sCAE/edit?usp=sharing

Call or email Anne in the Church Office: 860-643-1193 or aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org

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 before the meeting 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!

Once again, Emanuel will offer camperships for children attending Calumet Resident or Day Camp!

To secure a Calumet Campership from Emanuel, please email Anne in the Church (aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org) along with your child(ren)'s name(s) and the following information.

In your email, please specify the rate that best applies to your family situation.

Rate 1: \$1105/week (This rate reflects the true cost of camp.)

Rate 2: \$980/week (Rate for families for whom the full cost of camp is out of reach. Rate is subsidized by generous donors.)

Rate 3: \$855/week (This rate covers a portion of the true cost and is subsidized by generous donations by individuals and congregations.)

Then indicate the amount of campership that will meet your needs.

Emanuel will apply the campership to the rate selected above.

100% __75% __50% __25%

Each camper's registration fee, \$50, will be covered by Emanuel and added to each campership award. Don't delay! Let us know your plans now so that we can help send kids to camp.

Please let us know your plans no later than December 31, 2025.

Concordia Lutheran Church invites you to..



A Journey through American Music



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

Performed by the



Quercus String Quartet

Rebekka Almond and Monika Kinstler, Violin Colleen Chen, Viola Claire Esterman, Cello

(Members of the Manchester Symphony Orchestra)

- 📰 Sunday, January 18 at 4 PM
 - RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW AFTER CONCERT IN KAISER HALL
- Concordia Lutheran Church 40 Pitkin St., Manchester, CT
- Free admission all are welcome! Join us for an afternoon of music inspired by the landscapes, spirit, and stories of America.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann
10:00am –11:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary
1:30pm –4:00pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary

Monday, December 29, 2025 CHRISTMAS WEEK - OFFICE CLOSED

10:00am -12:30pm Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR

Tuesday, December 30, 2025 CHRISTMAS WEEK - OFFICE CLOSED No events are scheduled.

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 CHRISTMAS WEEK - OFFICE CLOSED

No events are scheduled.

Thursday, January 1, 2026 NEW YEARS DAY - OFFICE CLOSED

No events are scheduled.

Friday, January 2, 2026 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am –1:00pm Health Collective - LH/MR

Saturday, January 3, 2026

No events are scheduled.

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier
10:00am –10:45am Sunday School - Youth Room
10:00am –11:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

1:30pm –4:00pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary