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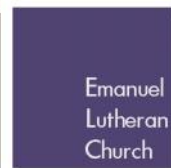
website: www.emanuelmanchester.org

March 2023

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

"Maybe our world will grow kinder eventually. Maybe the desire to make something beautiful is the piece of God that is inside each of us."

— Mary Oliver, *Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver*

One of the things that drew us to our house is our yard. It is a joy to see what automatically comes to life in our garden every year from bulbs that were planted by the previous owner. The first pop of bright yellow of the daffodils, cutting the stems, and placing them in a vase on my kitchen table lets me know that spring has arrived. The shoots of asparagus begin to come up through the earth. Even in February, the leaves of the strawberry plants started to turn green—fooled by the warm weather we have had.

But we've also pulled out a lot of plants in our yard over the years. We had bushes invading the side of our home that grew to the second story window. A forsythia bush that has its own zip code in our back yard. It is beautiful, but the years of neglect have turned it into a behemoth of a shrub that it was time to dig it out.

We all have things in our lives that we need to cultivate and things we need to let go of. We have beautiful daffodils that bring us calm, and we also have shrubs that become so large that we have a hard time seeing past them.

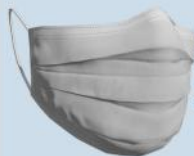
Lent is a good time to be reflective—to think about those things we need to let go of and those we need to cultivate more time for in our lives. Maybe for you, social media is taking too much of your attention. It may be time to cultivate a walk each day—no matter how busy you are. Or even just a few moments of silence to center yourself as you read Scripture.

Whatever it is, I hope you take this time in Lent to reflect on cultivating and letting go. In Lent, we return to God—knowing that God has never and will never leave us.

*Peace to you and yours,
Pastor Joanna Hertzog Betkoski*

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**Masks are OPTIONAL inside
Emanuel's building.**



Masks are RECOMMENDED
inside if you are unvaccinated
or at high risk for COVID-19
due to any chronic health
condition.

Thank you.

WINTER STORMS ARE STILL POSSIBLE DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH

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.



From the Vicar

Ryan Heckman

In January, I participated in a study abroad course with Luther Seminary to Guatemala and Mexico. Luther partnered with ELCA Global Mission to ensure that our trip was focused on partnership, personal relationships, and ultimately a concept called “Accompaniment”.

We were blessed with the opportunity of traveling with about one-third of the ELCA Global Mission staff and so we learned right from the people doing this work each and every day.

The accompaniment model was created out of the partnerships the ELCA had built with the Lutheran churches in El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Honduras. The relationship between the ELCA and these churches was one-sided at the outset of the ELCA in the late 1980s. Members of the ELCA would arrive to assist congregations and people in these countries with buildings, medicine, education or whatever the ELCA members perceived as a need. Though it was nice to have well-built structures, often the community would have different priorities that didn't line up perfectly with the assistance the ELCA members were offering. So, these Central American churches spoke up and presented the accompaniment model as a possible way to move forward in relationship with the ELCA. The Global Mission office listened and co-created this new model.

Let me share a story to articulate what accompaniment is: I visited a town called La Esmerelda in Guatemala. It's a very rural town about 10-15 miles off the main highway in northern Guatemala. Because of the very rugged terrain, it takes about two hours to get from the main road to La Esmerelda. It's a sub-tropical region, the temperatures while I was there in January never went below 60 degrees, even at night. The people live in open homes to allow the breeze in, most people have dirt floors, and they cook using wood stoves built from cinder blocks or rock piles. You may be thinking, as I was, that the people might want to have concrete floors, more efficient cooking appliances (even if they are still wood burning!), or perhaps better windows and doors to keep the bugs out while still allowing the cool evening breeze inside. Well, as I got to know the people I was staying with, they were not concerned about any of that. But they were concerned about the lack of electricity. New power poles had been installed, but the electric company was not stringing the wires. La Esmereldans use solar panels atop their homes in the dry season (when it's very sunny) and need the powerlines for the wet season (when it is mostly cloudy). The power company says they wouldn't make a profit fast enough to justify installing the wires because the people would use so little grid power in the dry season. So, ELCA Global Mission is working with the Lutheran Church in Guatemala to train advocates to build coalitions of towns to collectively bargain with the local and national governments to install the wires. That was the pressing need people were expressing. It was in real and deep relationship that the ELCA learned where to put resources. In relationship we learn what people are asking for and we can accompany them toward accomplishing their goals.

It's my hope this model can serve us at Emanuel in the coming months and years. We don't necessarily have to look internationally to build relationships with people and accomplish goals. We can learn how to enact this accompaniment model right here in our own community. I think the Global Mission Office is going to be one of the most important offices in the ELCA this decade. They understand how to build, deepen and sustain life-giving relationships that are growing God's church faithfully. Let's learn from them and faithfully work for God's mission together.

If you want to hear more about my trip, including what I learned about human migration within the Americas, join me at the next Ruth Circle Gathering on March 7th at 7:00 PM in Luther Hall.



Please remember that we have an AED (Automated external defibrillator) at Emanuel 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 you'll see it on the wall directly in front of you.**



If you are serving as a Communion Assistant or Assisting Minister during Sunday morning worship, please note that mask wearing is mandatory at this time for those serving the wafer, wine and grape juice for communion.

From the Parish Nurse

Lynne Gustafson

This article is part one in a four part series on Religion and Health

Over the next few months, I will be writing a series of articles about religion and spirituality; Eastern vs. Western medicine; how medical insurances influence our health care system; and the final article will discuss the role of government in health care. This article, will focus on the differences in religion and spirituality; curing and healing; prayer and meditation; religion and health.

Spirituality is that life principle that pervades the entire human being integrating and transcending all other dimensions of life. It gives meaning to life and death. It offers love and relatedness. It includes the need for forgiveness, hope, trust, and faith. It involves belief in a supernatural or higher power which some call God, Jehovah, or Allah. Some believe that creation is that higher power. In contrast, religion is an organized system of beliefs and practices. Religion is the spiritual application of the relationship between the people and their God. Spirituality and religion are related but not identical.

Recently, I found a quote by Rev. Kathy Bird DeYoung: "Spirituality often becomes more important to us in times of tragedy, loss, suffering and illness because it connects us to both our higher power and those around us and helps us to find meaning and purpose and it will bring us hope and healing".

However, most of the time when we are faced with a physical or mental diagnosis, we look to find a cure for our condition so that it restores us to physical health and wholeness that we once had. Susan Howitch, in *Absolute Truths*, says: "A cure signified the banishment of physical illness, but a healing could mean not just a physical cure but a repairing and strengthening of the mind and spirit to improve the quality of life even when no physical cure is possible."

Meditation and prayer are similar but both have unique distinctions. Both involve finding a quiet place, most close their eyes and focus their mind on either the prayer or mediation. Where they are different, prayer connects you with God by sending thoughts, prayers and ones needs to God. Most religions have several prayers written within their religious text or have separate books on prayers. These prayers contain requests for healing to forgiveness. Some religions such as Islam require their members to pray five times a day. One of Christianity's most known prayers is the prayer that Jesus taught-The Lord's Prayer.

Meditation, does not involve a connection with God, or a higher power, but it focuses on breathing and sitting in silence. Meditation is a personal practice that helps a person reach spiritual clarity.

However, prayer and meditation may ultimately achieve the same goal. When the human body is experiencing stress, anxiety or depression, inflammation occurs within the circulatory system. This inflammation builds plaque within the veins and arteries and puts the person at risk for a heart attack or stroke. Other organs and hormones may also respond resulting in diabetes, high blood pressure etc.. Both meditation and prayer focuses on calming the mind; letting go of negative thoughts and energies which in turn promote wellness and may prevent disease. Several studies indicate that those who participate in prayer alone, may reduce illness and promote health.

Health is a dynamic process that embodies the spiritual, physical, psychological, and social dimension of the person. We recognize that the body always tried to maintain homeostasis among these elements So if one element is out of balance and if that element is brought back into balance, it is possible that a person may be cured of an affliction.

Recently, I read an article in the Oct 2019 issue of *Bottom-Line Health* entitled "*Religion: The health booster no one talks about.*" In an interview, Dr. Harold G Koenig MD, who is a renowned authority on religion and health, was asked if religion is ever used as part of a formal health treatment plan. He explained that some mental health providers offer a technique called "religiously integrated cognitive behavior therapy which incorporates the clients' religious beliefs with cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), to relieve symptoms of depression and other mental health distresses". The studies show that when chronically ill Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu or Buddhist received this type of therapy it was effective. The goal of this type of therapy is to identify and change unhealthy patterns of thinking and behavior. To accomplish this goal, therapist asked clients to use passages of scripture from their religious traditions to reinforce healthier ways of thinking and behaving.

A passage from Jeremiah Chapter 30 verse 17: "I will restore faith unto thee and I will heal thee of thy wounds."



Next month's article will focus on Eastern vs. Western medicine.

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 sign out after worship. Personal healing prayer is offered to people who wish to receive it at the altar immediately following the postlude.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12, 2023.
Please remember to turn your clocks AHEAD one hour on Saturday, 3/11.

Women's Breakfast
Wednesday, March 15th
8:30 AM at Evergreen Crossings
in South Windsor



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

In-Depth Sunday Bible and Sermon Study with
Vicar Ryan meets every Sunday at 11:15 AM in
the Youth Room.

Confirmation Class will be held on Sunday
evenings in Luther Hall from 6:30 to 7:30 PM
on 3/19, 4/2, 4/23, 5/7, and 5/21.

If you would like more information about the program, please contact Pr. Joanna (pastorjoanna@emanuelmanchester.org).

Newcomers Brunch
Sunday, March 19th after Worship in Luther Hall

If you're new to Emanuel and want to learn more about this community of faith or are interested in membership, please join us for brunch on Sunday, March 19 after worship in Luther Hall.

If you have any questions or would like to attend, please reach out to Pastor Joanna in person or by email (pastorjoanna@emanuelmanchester.org).

Thrivent Members...

The deadline to direct your 2022 Thrivent Choice Dollars is 3/31/23. Any Choice Dollars that were earned in 2022 will EXPIRE on March 31.



If you'd like help registering your account online or have any problems directing your Choice Dollars, please contact Ray Purtell, Emanuel's Thrivent Coordinator by phone at (860) 228-2788 or email at Purt1015@gmail.com.

Ruth Circle
Tuesday, March 7th at 7 PM
in Luther Hall

The congregation is invited to the program. *Vicar Ryan is the presenter for the evening and will talk about his recent trip to Guatemala.*

Hostesses for the evening are Carol Kohl and Pam Rowett.



Vicar Ryan will speak about his recent trip he took with Luther Seminary and ELCA Global Mission. Vicar Ryan traveled to Guatemala and Mexico where he studied Mayan and Aztec cultures and their religiosities, and how that has intermingled with Christianity after the Spanish invasion of central and Meso-America. He also studied human migration and the social and political realities that shape a migrant's journey through both Guatemala and Mexico. His presentation will include his personal stories and many pictures that he and his fellow classmates took along the way.

Weekly Bible Study
Thursdays at 10 AM in the library

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 May 2023 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.

Camp Calumet Sunday, March 26th



Many of us—as campers, counselors, family camp, volunteers—have fond memories and connections to Camp Calumet. And if you don't know what Camp Calumet is, we'll share stories about it! Knute Ogren, from Camp Calumet, will join us for worship on Sunday, March 26. We'll have a light lunch after worship and will take a free will offering to support the ministry of Camp Calumet.

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 <i>Assisting Minister - Vicar Ryan Heckman</i> <i>Vicar Ryan Heckman preaching</i> 10:00am Sunday School - LH 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:15am In-Depth Sunday Bible and Sermon Study - Youth Room 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary 6:30pm Confirmation Class - LH	27 CHP - Winter Break	28 10:00am Staff Meeting via Zoom 6:00pm CHP Open House for Prospective Families - Classrooms 6:00pm Endowment Committee Meeting - Library 7:00pm Emanuel Housing Corp. Meeting - LH	1 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Worship via Zoom	2 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	3 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	4 8:45am Music Together Class - CR
5 <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> <i>Healing Prayer following worship at the Altar</i> <i>Pastor Bill White preaching and presiding</i> 10:00am Sunday School - LH 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:15am In-Depth Sunday Bible and Sermon Study - Youth Room 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	6	7 10:00am Staff Meeting via Zoom 7:00pm Ruth Circle Gathering - LH	8 6:00pm Midweek Lenten Dinner Church - LH	9 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	10 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	11 8:45am Music Together Class - CR 1:00pm Braman Family Party - LH
12 <i>Assisting Minister - Joe Jauss</i> <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> <i>Deadline for Ordering Easter Plants</i> <i>Sunday School teacher - Vicar Ryan</i> 10:00am Sunday School - LH 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:15am In-Depth Sunday Bible and Sermon Study - Youth Room 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	13 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting - LH	14 10:00am Staff Meeting via Zoom	15 Visitor newsletter deadline 8:30am Women's Breakfast - Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Worship via Zoom	16 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	17 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	18 8:45am Music Together Class - CR 11:00am Memorial Service for Ron Lehrach 7:00pm FME Chamber Music Concert Series - Sergey Antonov and Ilya Kazantsev - SA
19 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> <i>Children's Sermon during Worship Service</i> <i>Vicar Ryan Heckman preaching</i> 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:00am New Member Brunch - LH 11:15am In-Depth Sunday Bible and Sermon Study - Youth Room 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary 6:30pm Confirmation Class - LH	20	21 10:00am Staff Meeting via Zoom 7:00pm Council Meeting - LH	22 6:00pm Midweek Lenten Dinner Church at Concordia Lutheran Church	23 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	24 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	25
26 <i>Assisting Minister - Vicar Ryan Heckman</i> CALUMET SUNDAY 10:00am Sunday School - LH 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:00am Calumet Coffee Hour - LH 11:15am In-Depth Sunday Bible and Sermon Study - Youth Room 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Worship Service at Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor	27	28 10:00am Staff Meeting via Zoom 7:00pm Emanuel Housing Corp. Meeting - LH	29 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Worship via Zoom	30 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	31 Visitor newsletter mailing 7:00am HGLHC - LH/MR	1 8:45am Music Together Class - CR

*Eggs from Creative Living Community of CT have been in very short supply the last few months.
Therefore, at this time there is a hold on the sale of eggs at Emanuel until production increases.*

Archived copies of all 2022 Visitor newsletters are available on our website under the password protected MEMBER ACCESS tab (pull down to "VISITOR NEWSLETTERS").

Historical Notes

By Matt Heinrich

As we continue the summary of the history of Emanuel, we begin with the arrival of the Reverend Thorsten A. Gustafson who came to Emanuel with his wife Charlotte and daughter Lois in October 1939. During his service in Manchester (1939-1944) a second daughter, Phyllis, was born. He is remembered for many attributes including his fluency in Swedish and that he conducted a service in Swedish each month and Swedish "Julotta" on Christmas morning.

In 1940, Boy Scout Troop 126 was organized under the sponsorship of Emanuel and the leadership of Clarence Wogman as the first Chairman of the Troop Committee and Albert Peterson as the first Scoutmaster. The Troop continued until it was disbanded about 2010.

In 1941, Emanuel celebrated its 60th Anniversary. This milestone was observed with many events including a banquet at which former Pastor Erickson was the guest speaker and five of the original charter members were in attendance. In 1941, the vestry was renovated and an office was created for the pastor as well as the first church secretary.

World War II began in 1939 and after the United States entered the war in 1941, Emanuel as well as the Town of Manchester and the nation were impacted. This included the lack of people available to participate in various activities such as the Beethoven Chorus which suspended its rehearsals and performances. The lack of participation in various activities was because of the number of people who were in the military service and others who were working long hours in area defense industries. All of the 102 men and women of Emanuel who served in the armed services during the war returned safely with the exception of two who were lost in action.

Many of the members of Emanuel who were in the military during World War II corresponded with Pastor Gustafson and he often responded. Emanuel has a large collection of the letters they exchanged. The letters have been organized chronologically and by author and can be made available for examination by family members.

As the result of a fund-raising drive, in 1944 Emanuel paid off its mortgage and a mortgage burning ceremony was held on March 5, 1944. In addition, in 1944 the interior of the church was painted in preparation for the convention of the New England Conference which was held at Emanuel in April.

Additional information about the history of the Church will be provided in subsequent issues of The Visitor. If you have any questions or comments about the history of the Church or the extensive archive including newspaper clippings, photographs and objects, please contact me. I can be reached at fmheinrich73@gmail.com or by telephone at the number in the Church Directory.

REMINDER from the Parish Nurse:

Respiratory viruses are still circulating during the month of March. We often wonder if it could be the flu, COVID or the common cold. The symptoms of these viruses are similar, and it is often hard to distinguish which one it is. If you are not feeling well, but you feel obligated to take part in any of our church events, **please remember that you are always welcome to join worship LIVE on Zoom (a link is emailed out every Sunday morning at 8 AM) and a recording of the service is sent out later on Sunday, so you won't miss anything if you need to stay home.** Often when one is coming down with an illness, the immune system is not working at its peak performance, and you may become vulnerable to other viruses or pathogens. So, to protect yourself and others, please stay home and know that you will certainly be welcomed back, as soon as you are feeling better.

MACC Food Pantry needs:

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		



Food donations can be dropped off at the Community Food Pantry, 460 Main Street in Manchester.

Monday through Thursday 9 AM—4 PM and Friday 9 AM—2 PM or donations can be left in the designated baskets located in the Narthex at Emanuel on Sunday morning.

Stewarding Our Stories

By Ray Purtell

Simple Acts of Kindness Make a Difference

This story is testimony about a part of my faith journey and relationship with God and the church.

It was 1965. I remember it like it was yesterday. It was a warm, sunny Saturday in July. I was 7 years old and I was awake early...full of anticipation because I was going to camp in New Hampshire. It would be my first time at an overnight camp. I was looking out the living room window, my neatly packed suitcase beside the front door, waiting for the nice couple from the church that was bringing me to camp. You see my parents were recently divorced and my mom had joined the local Lutheran church. Mom didn't drive or own a car so, without the kindness of others, I had no way to get to camp. In fact, it was our Lutheran congregation in Roslindale, MA (part of Boston) that suggested a week at camp would be a good thing. For my Mom, both transportation and camp tuition were barriers to overcome. "Not to worry" church members said, "We'll take care of the cost for a week and make arrangements for the transportation."

That act of kindness and generosity was the real beginning of my faith journey and a 58 year relationship with both Camp Calumet and the Lutheran church. Needless to say, the camp experience was phenomenal...boating, field sports, crafts, new friends, fun counselors, and so much more. While still struggling through the unsettling effects of my parents' divorce, the camp experience allowed me to leave those struggles behind and just be a happy-go-lucky kid again. What a gift.

That first year experience led to seven more summers as a camper, five years as a staff member, my becoming a founding member of the Staff Alumni Association, and terms on the Calumet Board of Directors. It also led to finding the love of my life, my wife Kathy, who I met while working on staff. That union led to two sons, Dan and Tim, who also were campers and served on the camp staff. In addition, this 58 year relationship with Calumet includes annual visits to the shores of Lake Ossipee in Freedom, NH for family vacation, recreation, time with friends and reconnection with a place that feels like home. The ministry there has fed my soul and been a constant companion in my faith journey.

Calumet's ministry during my childhood and adolescent years also kept me connected to my local congregation. As a young adult, finding a local congregation was important to me when career pursuits and job-related relocations took Kathy and I to various parts of New England.

So why does any of this matter? I share the story because it's an example of how a simple act of compassion, kindness and generosity by a small congregation, and a young couple who gave up a Saturday to drive a kid to camp, had a meaningful, life-long impact. I really can't remember the names or see the faces of the couple that drove me to camp, but, I remember the trip and still appreciate their kindness. So often, in church, we emphasize the importance of community and relationships. At Emanuel, we look for opportunities to build relationships with one another, the local community, and the church at large. Oftentimes, those relationships are developed in small steps, by singular acts of kindness, and by grace.

Sending a kid to camp for a week...what's the big deal? We do it all the time. You may never know, but, trust me, it is a big deal. The small congregation that sent me to camp closed its doors many years ago, and the couple that drove me to camp have no idea of the impact they made on my life.

My story demonstrates that ministry, more often than not, occurs with small acts of kindness. The impacts can be profound and life changing. Let us give pause to remember that we have all the gifts and tools that we need to make a difference in this world. Sometimes the biggest impacts happen with the smallest of gestures, and sometimes we aren't even aware of the difference that we have made. We are called to have faith and trust God. Thanks be to God.

Register now for 2023 Calumet Resident Camp!

If your child is between the ages of 8-15, there is still time to sign them up for the best summer ever!

Visit: <https://www.calumet.org/summercamp/residentcamp> for registration information.

Once again, Emanuel is able to offer Camperships for children attending Calumet Resident Camp!

If your child will be attending Calumet Resident Camp this summer, please email Nancy in the Church Office (nwhiton@emanuelmanchester.org) along with your child(ren)'s name(s) to secure a Calumet Campership from Emanuel.



Lent and Holy Week 2023

Emanuel, Concordia and Ministerio Nueva Creacion

Lenten Wednesdays offers Worship

March 1 – 7 PM Worship via Zoom

March 8 – 6 PM Dinner Church at Emanuel

March 15 – 7 PM Worship via Zoom

March 22 – 6 PM Dinner Church at Concordia

March 29 – 7 PM Worship via Zoom

**A Zoom link for Worship on 3/1, 3/15 and 3/29
will be emailed to the congregation each week.**

***For more details on the midweek worship opportunities,
please see page 10.***

April 6th—Maundy Thursday

at Emanuel, 7:00 PM

April 7th—Good Friday

at Concordia, 7:00 PM

April 8th—Easter Vigil

at Emanuel, 7:00 PM

**Emanuel will celebrate April 2nd—Palm Sunday
and April 9th—Easter Sunday on our own
with worship services at 10 AM.**



FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT EMANUEL
CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES 2022 - 2023

Sergey Antonov

cellist

Ilya Kazantsev

pianist



**Saturday
March 18
at 7 pm**

Antonov, a gold medalist cello superstar, performs with Kazantsev, virtuosic pianist, combining formidable technique and an incredible warmth. Come, enjoy chamber music of the highest caliber, presented by two phenomenal artists.

FREE ADMISSION

DONATIONS WELCOMED

Emanuel Lutheran Church

60 Church Street, Manchester, CT 06040

860-643-1193

FriendsOfMusicAtEmanuel@gmail.com

www.FriendsOfMusicAtEmanuel.org

New Pride Flag

By Vicar Ryan Heckman

Many of you may have noticed there is a different version of the LGBTQ+ Pride flag on the flagpole here at Emanuel Lutheran Church. You'll see a triangle created nearest to the pole that includes white, pink, light blue, brown and black which then turns into the typical rainbow colors of the Pride flag. This flag is called the "Progress Pride Flag" as it adds a new progression of colors to make visible some identities that have been systematically made invisible.



You may be familiar with the meanings of each of the colors in the original Pride flag (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Violet). Red symbolizes life, Orange is healing, Yellow for sunlight, Green represents nature, Blue stands for art, Violet is serenity and spirit. This flag has been in use consistently since the 1970s and has come to stand in as the universal symbol for the LGBTQ+ community. Theologically speaking, the rainbow was set in the sky to inform Noah of safety. This rainbow flag is often used to denote safe places for LGBTQ+ people.

Our new Progress Pride flag was designed in 2018 in Philadelphia for the Pride festival there. The new colors of white, pink and light blue are the colors used to represent the Transgender community while the black and brown colors represent the very marginalized communities of LGBTQ+ people of color.

The transgender community and communities of color have this very specific representation in this flag because of their near-total absence of representation even in modern culture. It is important that we symbolize these peoples presence in our society by boldly proclaiming that we love them. It is our call to be with marginalized people and to run to their sides. Jesus, time and again in scripture, runs to the side of people who have been kicked out of society or ostracized.

Our new flag communicates that the community of Emanuel will see transgender people, LGBTQ+ people of color, and all LGBTQ+ people. We will love and support them in spite of our society as it continues to place LGBTQ+ people on the margins, demonize them as sexual deviants, and legislate against them. Our call is to stand up against all of that and to love and care for people, as Jesus did.

Midweek Worship Opportunities during Lent in partnership with Concordia Lutheran and Ministerio Nueva Creacion

Join us as we journey through Lent with our brothers and sisters at Concordia Lutheran and Ministerio Nueva Creacion. We will have opportunities to worship, pray and hear the story of passion according to John on Zoom. And we will worship around tables in-person at dinner church as we hear about tradition and vision in Scripture.



Below is the schedule with a description of what we will focus on each week. Please reach out to Pastor Joanna or Vicar Ryan with any questions. **And if you'd be willing to bring a soup for Wednesday, March 8, please let Pastor Joanna know.**

Wednesday, March 1 at 7 PM via Zoom: Join us for worship via Zoom as we hear the passion story according to John throughout Lent. This evening, we'll focus on John 18:1-27.

Wednesday, March 8 at 6 PM at Emanuel Lutheran: Join us for dinner church as we gather around tables for worship. We'll gather in prayer, share in a simple soup and bread supper, experience Christ's presence in communion, and be blessed to go out to serve. During our time, we'll focus on the word tradition. How do we each define it? How does Scripture shape our understanding of tradition? How do we hold in tension the character of God that is steadfast and ever making a new thing?

Wednesday, March 15 at 7 PM via Zoom: Join us for worship via Zoom as we hear the passion story according to John throughout Lent. This evening, we'll focus on John 18:29-19:16.

Wednesday, March 22 at 6 PM at Concordia Lutheran: Join us for dinner church as we gather around tables for worship. We'll gather in prayer, share in a simple soup and bread supper, experience Christ's presence in communion, and be blessed to go out to serve. During our time, we'll focus on the word vision. How do we each define it? How does Scripture shape our understanding of vision? And we'll continue our discussion of how do we hold in tension the character of God that is steadfast and ever making a new thing.

Wednesday, March 29 at 7 PM via Zoom: Join us for worship via Zoom as we hear the passion story according to John throughout Lent. This evening, we'll focus on John 19:16b-42.

Caring

March Birthdays

Ruth Lehrach 3/4
Keith Carriere 3/5
Rosemary Hokanson 3/10
Deborah Conklin 3/15



James Hamilton 3/18
Helen Johnson 3/24
Charles Henderson 3/25
Richard Marsh 3/26

Pastoral Acts

Baptism

Cameron Johnson

Funerals

Leons & Ara Bramanis Gloria Larson

The Cards for Caring Team needs your help!

We are in need of someone who would like to join this ministry of sending a few cards each month to our homebound members to let them know their friends at Emanuel are thinking of them so that they can feel connected to their church family.

If you would be willing to be part of this ministry, please contact Nancy in the Church Office 860-643-1193, ext. 309 or nwhiton@emanuelmanchester.org.

Coffee Hour Hosts

A sign up sheet is posted in the office hallway. We would love to have Coffee Hour every Sunday in Luther Hall at 11 AM. Are you willing to host? The host is responsible for making the coffee and providing either individual, pre-wrapped treats or act as the "server" behind the banquet table to plate any items that are not individually wrapped. The host is also responsible for providing half & half, milk or cream as well as juice.



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

We welcomed Jeff Sirois as our new Director of Music on Sunday, February 12th!

If you would like to join the music program at Emanuel contact Jeff: jsirois@emanuelmanchester.org



Emanuel Staff

(860) 643-1193

Pastor Joanna Hertzog Betkoski
pastorjoanna@emanuelmanchester.org
Ext. 301

Vicar Ryan Heckman
vicarryan@emanuelmanchester.org
Ext. 303

Jeff Sirois
Director of Music
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Ext. 307

Danielle Berneski and Julie Kamp
Co-Directors of Family Ministries
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Ext. 304

Nancy Whiton
Administrative Assistant
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Ext. 309

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Ext. 300

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Eric Carlson
Financial Secretary
eric.carlson4191@gmail.com

Lynne Gustafson
Parish Nurse
cgustafson01@snet.net

Berk Little and Kathy Rusch
Worship Support Specialists

Church Office Hours

Monday—Thursday: 10 AM—4 PM
Friday: 10 AM—2 PM

Easter Flowers Order Form

Please Print

I/We, _____, wish to order #_____ lily,

#_____ tulip plants to decorate Emanuel for **Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023.**

The plants are given:

In memory of: _____

or

In honor of: _____

or

To the Glory of God: _____.

The **lily plants cost \$10.55 each**; the **tulip plants cost \$8.80 each**.

I have enclosed a check for the total amount: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to **Emanuel Lutheran Church** and designated for *Easter flowers*.

Deadline for ordering is **Sunday, March 12, 2023.** Place this form with your check in the offering plate or turn it in to the church office. Thank you.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Emanuel Lutheran Church
60 Church Street
Manchester, CT 06040

