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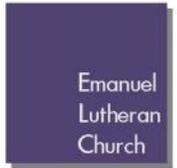
website: www.emanuelmanchester.org

March 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

1

From the Pastor

2

Parish Nurse News
Thrivent Choice Dollars

3

2026 Narrative Budget

4

Events and Items of Interest

5

March 2026 Calendar

6

2026 Narrative Budget (cont.)

7

Lenten Holden Evening Prayer
March FME Concert
Great British Bake Off Event

8

The Hem Hangout
Thrivent Education Workshops

9

Caring

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."—1 Corinthians 12:12-13

On a Sunday morning in February, the choir was singing the prelude when two young siblings started to do what all siblings do—little sister followed big brother, big brother wanted distance from his little sister. Mom was singing in the choir, shooting laser beams from her eyes and pointing for them to sit down. They sat down, but soon little sister ran to the narthex. From my vantage point, I could see that she was grabbing a kids worship bag, but no one else could see that. Two people stood up and walked to the narthex—one a Sunday School assistant and the other a fellow mom—to check in on her. I watched Mom's shoulders relax as she could focus on doing what she loved and the gift she was bringing—singing with the choir.

I write to tell you this story because I think it is an easily overlooked and beautiful example of what we hear about in 1 Corinthians 12:12—*"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."*

In that small, ordinary moment, the church looked exactly like what Paul describes—a single body with many members, each responding in their own way for the good of the whole. The Sunday School assistant and the fellow mom did not sing in the choir that morning, but their attentiveness was just as essential as the music. Mom was able to sing because she knew trusted adults would check in on her daughter. Others listened and received the gift of the music.

Because each part did its work, the whole body functioned. An ordinary moment became a living picture of Christ's body at work—different gifts, different roles, one shared purpose.

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

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



LENT

Midweek Lenten Holden Evening Prayer—see page 7 for details
Holy Week Worship Services schedule—see back cover

Parish Nurse News, Thrivent Choice Dollars

Parish Nurse News

Welcome to March! Not my favorite month, weatherwise at least. It's cold and grey a lot of the time but days are getting longer and Spring is around the corner. We are in the midst of the Lenten season, a time of quiet contemplation and reflection. I find as I get older I realize that life is quite unpredictable and can be messy, even with our best efforts to control the chaos that often happens. My Aunt Marilyn once told me "I'm not sure where the road will lead me but I know the lord will be by my side." The serenity prayer says, "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference." These touchstones have helped guide me in both my personal life and role as parish nurse. With that in mind I would like to tell you about a few things happening at Emanuel this month.



Tuesday, March 3, I will be speaking to Ruth Circle about *Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia*, testing, stages and care, and current treatment and research.

Sunday, March 15, after worship and during coffee hour will be the first part of a conversation dealing with thinking about final wishes. We'll talk about the *Five Wishes*, which is a document that helps folks to address what matters most to them when thinking about the end of life. It is an advanced directive but also addresses emotional, personal and spiritual concerns and can offer clarity and peace of mind to individuals and their loved ones. Both these topics are ones that folks often avoid talking about. Hopefully gaining some knowledge and clarity will create conversations and make that less the case.

One last topic that many avoid is colonoscopies. March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. I work at the West Hartford Surgery Center and in addition to surgery, we do lots of screening colonoscopies. Often colon cancer starts as a growth or polyp. The procedure is relatively easy but does require a strict adherence to specific guidelines set forth by the provider. Different providers may have different instructions and preps individualized to the patient. It is important to review those instructions, ideally at least a week prior as there may be dietary or medication restrictions. During a colonoscopy, polyps that are seen may be removed before they have a chance to develop into cancer. Routine screening for colon cancer begins at age 45 but may vary due to health and family history. Talking to your doctor and following the screening guidelines for colon cancer can make a significant impact on prevention, early detection, treatment and your overall health.

As we take time to contemplate and reflect during this season, may we consider stepping out of our comfort zones, perhaps dealing with challenging topics and taking care of ourselves and each other.

Peace, Donna Connolly, Parish Nurse

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 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

- ◆ Visit [Thrivent.com](https://www.thrivent.com)
- ◆ Log in by entering your user ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on [Thrivent.com](https://www.thrivent.com), 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".



ALL THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS EARNED IN 2025 MUST BE DESIGNATED BY MARCH 31, 2026.

If you'd like help registering your account online, please let Ray Purtell know. He will be happy to assist. Give him a call at 860-228-2788 or email Ray: Purt1015@gmail.com.

Narrative Budget for 2026

Presented by Council President, Kathy Rusch at the Annual Congregation Meeting – February 1, 2026

For those of you who are new to Emanuel, our “narrative” budget tells us where our contributions go, and why. We start by looking at our core values of worship, music, outreach and fellowship. We then determine what percentage of our funds are being used for each value. Salaries, administrative costs and infrastructure costs are distributed proportionally, relative to the time devoted to each value. The budget for this year is very similar to last year as far as percentages go.

Forty-five percent of our resources were distributed between worship and music (25% for worship, 20% for music.) Pastor Joanna continues to provide wonderful leadership to this faith community. Both her children’s sermons and, as Eli would say, the “adult” sermons, are relevant, sprinkled with a touch of humor, and always heartfelt. She also continues to preach at Evergreen Crossings once a month. The Porter Family Room has been completed and worship services can now be livestreamed there. Sunday School is following a new curriculum this year, called “Two or More,” which is geared toward churches with kids of all ages in one class. Book club was brought back this past year and our discussions have brought us closer together. Art projects were added to our Lenten and Advent seasons; a weaving project created a beautiful sunrise for Easter morning while Advent saw the making of felt bird ornaments seen throughout the church. This summer we took our worship and music “on the road” for a week to Camp Calumet where both Pastor Joanna and Music Director Jeff Sirois were guest chaplain and musician, respectively. Music has always been an integral part of Emanuel’s worship. Along with our two dedicated choirs, section leaders and instrumentalists, our faith community continues to enjoy a wonderful mix of both traditional and contemporary music. Easter and Christmas always include supplemental musicians to enhance these most holy of days. It’s also important to maintain the integrity of the organ, piano and harpsichord. We had some organ repairs completed last year with a few more slated to be done in the future. Another tradition brought back this year was the ringing of handbells. We had two performances, which were not only wonderful to hear, but also to see! All in all, our worship, our music, our Sunday School, Bible study and Book Club are important and meaningful ways that bring us closer to our triune God.

Twenty-eight percent of our resources are devoted to community outreach, also referred to as Extended Ministries. To say this faith community is generous is a gross understatement! Take a look at the Benevolence Report on p. 25 – It is over \$100,000! 12% of Emanuel’s pledged, unpledged and loose income goes to the New England Synod and ELCA, while 3% (not 2% as written) goes to MACC. Because our pledged and unpledged giving increased this past year, so did our contributions to those two organizations. And look at all the other wonderful ministries we continue to support. For 2026 we will be increasing our contributions to Reconciling Works and also to the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance from \$750 each to \$1,000 each. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your compassionate and generous hearts! We continue to share our facilities with Christ Church, Grow with Me Music, the Health Collective, Music from the Heart band, FME and Advancing CT Together. This year we will be welcoming the Pop Up Shop, an outreach program started by Concordia to help designated families in need whose children attend Highland Park Elementary School. Several times a year, the Pop Up Shop will provide specific clothing and household items to those families. Volunteers from Concordia associated with this program have graciously offered to work with Emanuel’s volunteers. They met this past Tuesday to discuss the logistics of the move to Emanuel. We have also welcomed Ministerio Nueva Creacion, a Latinx/Latine ministry, to use our chapel for their monthly worship services. Ministerio is also coming over from Concordia, who sadly will be closing their doors in June. We continue to keep them in our prayers. Ministerio’s financial support comes from the New England Synod. We will be their “fiscal agent” – their bank, so to speak. The Synod deposits funds here; Ministerio withdraws the funds for their expenses. We also hope to build a genuine relationship with their congregants. I encourage all of us to attend some of their services and to get to know the people of Ministerio. Which brings me to fellowship!

Twenty-seven percent of our resources are devoted to fellowship. We continued our Building-Belonging-Becoming theme this past year with the emphasis on “belonging.” We have gotten to know each other on a deeper level. We pray together; we play together. Our coffee hours have expanded – we meet new people and engage with them. The completion of the Family Room and the two rooms at the end of the hall give young and old alike an opportunity to bond with one another. Katie Kurlak, our director of Family Ministries, continues to organize wonderful intergenerational outings each month. You make play dates with your kids; We have breakfast or lunch together during the week; hang out at a Yard Goats game; have each other over for cards or game night, show up in costumes together for Rally Day, then enjoy pizza, Kona Ice and a spirited ping pong tournament; bring and ring our own bells at Lessons & Carols – this faith community can be a rowdy bunch! We are also having our 2nd Congregational Retreat this August up at Camp Calumet!

Continued on page 6

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 ahenrich@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.

Ruth Circle Gathering Tuesday, March 3 at 7 PM—Luther Hall



The March program is: **Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia** led by Donna Connolly, Emanuel's Parish Nurse. The congregation is invited to attend. *Hostesses: Lynda Brown, Elsa Robinson.*

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!



Five Wishes Program Sunday, March 15th during Coffee Hour

For more details, please refer to the *Parish Nurse News* article on page 2. If you would like to attend, or if you have any questions, please email Donna: parishnurse@emanuelmanchester.org by 3/12.

Daylight Savings Time Begins on Sunday, March 8th.

Please remember to turn your clocks AHEAD ONE HOUR before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7th.

New Member Sunday—March 22

We will celebrate our 2025 and 2026 new members during our 10 AM worship service on Sunday, March 22 and have a special coffee hour after worship in Luther Hall.

Save the Date... 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—our second one! 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. Just ask anyone who went last year—it's fun!

Please sign up in the narthex if you're interested in going and fill out a registration form.

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p><i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i></p> <p>10:00am Emanuel Sunday School - Sunday School Room</p> <p>10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary</p> <p>11:15am Finance Committee meeting - Library and via Zoom</p> <p>12:00pm Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) Worship Service - Community Room</p> <p>1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary</p>	<p>2</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR</p>	<p>3</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED</p> <p>7:00pm Ruth Circle Gathering: "Parish Nurse - Dementia" (Congregation is invited) - LH</p>	<p>4</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>10:00am FME Board Meeting - LH</p> <p>6:30pm The Hem Hangout - LH</p> <p>7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer - Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester</p>	<p>5</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study - Library</p> <p>5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room</p> <p>7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer - Community Room</p>	<p>6</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room</p>
<p>8</p> <p><i>Assisting Minister - Ben Hogue</i></p> <p><i>Heidi Marie Shaughnessy Baptist During Worship</i></p> <p>10:00am Emanuel Sunday School - Sunday School Room</p> <p>10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary</p> <p>1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary</p>	<p>9</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR</p> <p>7:00pm Property Committee Meeting - LH</p>	<p>10</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED</p> <p>7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom</p>	<p>11</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer - Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester</p>	<p>12</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study - Library</p> <p>5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room</p> <p>7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer - Community Room</p>	<p>13</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room</p> <p>7:00pm FME Chamber Music Concert Series - Suliman Tekalli, violinist</p>
<p>15</p> <p><i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i></p> <p><i>Five Wishes Program, Led by Parish Nurse, Donna Connolly - During Coffee Hour</i></p> <p>Visitor newsletter deadline</p> <p>10:00am Emanuel Sunday School - Sunday School Room</p> <p>10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary</p> <p>4:30pm Christ Church Anniversary Worship Service - Sanctuary</p>	<p>16</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR</p>	<p>17</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED</p> <p>7:00pm Council Meeting - LH</p>	<p>18</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>7:00pm Bible Study led by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) - LH</p> <p>7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer - Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester</p>	<p>19</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study - Library</p> <p>5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room</p> <p>7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer - Community Room</p>	<p>20</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room</p> <p>1:00pm Congregation Event: Great British Bake Off - LH</p>
<p>22</p> <p><i>Assisting Minister - Adela Garmendia</i></p> <p><i>Welcome New Members During Worship followed by a Special Coffee Hour</i></p> <p>10:00am Emanuel Sunday School - Sunday School Room</p> <p>10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary</p> <p>1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary</p>	<p>23</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR</p>	<p>24</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED</p> <p>7:00pm Emanuel Housing Corp. Meeting - LH</p>	<p>25</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>7:00pm Bible Study led by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) - LH</p> <p>7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer - Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester</p>	<p>26</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study - Library</p> <p>5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room</p> <p>7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer - Community Room</p>	<p>27</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room</p>
<p>29</p> <p><i>Assisting Minister - Kathy Rusch</i></p> <p><i>Children's Sermon during worship - No Sunday School</i></p> <p>SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY</p> <p>10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary</p> <p>4:00pm Christ Church Special Worship Service in the Sanctuary</p>	<p>30</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR</p>	<p>31</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED</p>	<p>1</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>6:30pm The Hem Hangout - LH</p>	<p>2</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED</p> <p>MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study - Library</p> <p>5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room</p> <p>7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service at Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester</p>	<p>3</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR</p> <p>7:00pm Good Friday Worship Service at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 60 Church Street, Manchester</p>	<p>4</p> <p>EASTER VIGIL</p> <p>7:00pm Easter Vigil Worship Service at Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester</p>

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").

We had a wonderful time two years ago and hope more folks can share the experience this year. We also care and engage with our homebound siblings. A newly formed Care Team will ensure that they continue to be kept informed as to what's going on at church as well as being kept in our prayers. In Temple Talks, Bible study, book club, committee meetings and everyday conversations, I have witnessed your courage to be vulnerable and your respectful honesty with one another. We truly do care for each other.

This year our focus is on "Becoming." How are we going to reflect God's love in the world? I have seen our concern for all of God's creation. Some traveled to Emanuel Hartford for a meeting on the environment; some attended GHIAA rallies at the State Capitol in search of social justice. Hopefully we are "becoming" the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. It's not an easy task, especially in this deeply troubled America in which we live. It's not a political issue – it's a moral issue. It's not about right and left – it's about right and wrong. It's about respecting the dignity and worth of every human being. "What does the Lord require of us but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God? That is certainly one way of reflecting God's love in the world! Personally, I would love to meet with anyone who is interested in pursuing the ministry of social justice. I would be also be interested in finding out what other ministries are important to you. Let's start having these conversations this year. Let's take this journey together as we "become" the body of Christ.

That pretty much concludes the narrative budget "sermon." Our 2026 budget, like last year's, shows a surplus, and that is now two years in a row! Thank you for your generosity and your commitment to Emanuel, that we might better serve others. Thank you for coming together to share your time, talents and treasures with each other and the wider community. Gracious God, thank you for your love and your grace!

For those stepping off committees for various reasons or because their term has expired, we thank you for your service.

From Council – Ben Halmers and Kathy Rusch

From Finance – Ann Cook, Sue Tracey and Keith Bowman

From Endowment – Kim Boerner-Mercier

From Nominating – Ray Purtell and Vyrjil Buus

From Personnel – Donna Connolly

From Stewardship – Ray Purtell

- ◆ We would like to thank our Hospitality Team for organizing this lunch and for also for all that they do throughout the year!
- ◆ We would again like to thank Ray Purtell for organizing the Thrivent Action Team Grants, supporting projects that not only expand our ministry but also reduce our expenses, and thanks to everyone who submitted Action Team projects.
- ◆ We'd like to thank our staff, whose tireless and faithful work ensures that Emanuel runs smoothly: Jeff Sirois (our Director of Music), Anne Heinrich (our Office Administrator), and Kathy Hatch (our Property Supervisor). Kathy recently had a knee replacement and needs another surgery on that knee on Feb. 11, so if anyone would like to send her a card, you can put it in the offering plate any Sunday.
- ◆ We would like to thank everyone who continues to work on committees and everyone who volunteers their time to help with all the different ministries and events that go on throughout the year. Please know that we appreciate each and every one of you!
- ◆ And finally, we want to thank Pastor Joanna, for her faithful service to God and the people of Emanuel. With her wisdom, grace and guidance our faith community has grown in so many ways: membership, generosity, compassion, fellowship, service to others.
- ◆ As one parishioner said to me recently. "I think God put Pastor Joanna and Emanuel together at exactly the right time." I would agree! Thank you, Pastor, for all you do!



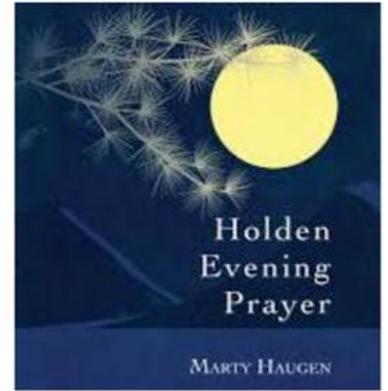
Coffee Hours —You can sign-up to host coffee hour in one of three ways:

- ◆ On the paper sign-up sheet in the narthex
 - ◆ Through the online sign-up sheet:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YKFVJbX8HdJsFGkRaQfvndhTMmffSvVDNqYHcs3sCAE/edit?usp=sharing>
 - ◆ Call or email Anne in the Church Office: 860-643-1193 or ahheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org
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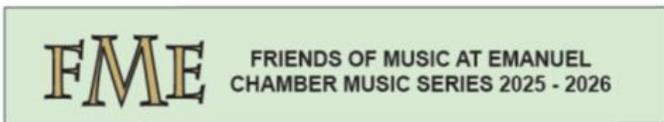
Lenten Holden Evening Prayer
 Wednesdays at 7 PM at Concordia
 (February 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25)

Thursdays at 7 PM at Emanuel in the Community Room
 (February 26, March 5, 12, 19 & 26)

After Thursday's Holden Evening prayer at Emanuel each week, people are invited to stay as Emanuel's Field Education Seminarian Student, Bea teaches us how to explore Scripture using Lectio Divina. We hope you can join us!



Marty Haugen wrote Holden Evening Prayer during the winter of 1985-86 during a musical residency at Holden Village. Holden Village is a remote wilderness community, rooted in the Lutheran tradition, that welcomes all people into the North Cascade Mountains, above Lake Chelan, Washington. Holden Evening Prayer is a simple Lutheran vespers service that follows traditional form while using contemporary and inclusive language. Evening Prayer gives thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God (Psalm 141.1). This service has become beloved by many. If you have never participated in Holden Evening Prayer, you'll want to join us during Lent.



Saturday, March 14, at 7 pm

Experience an elegant, intelligent performance. This versatile soloist has captivated audiences worldwide. He studied at Juilliard, Cleveland Institute of Music, and Yale's School of Music.



Suliman Tekalli
violinist

FREE ADMISSION DONATIONS WELCOMED

EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 60 Church Street, Manchester, CT
 860 - 643-1193

FriendsOfMusicatEmanuel@gmail.com www.FriendsOfMusicAtEmanuel.org

Emanuel Congregational Council Members—2026

*Neal Benson, Lynda Brown, Jodi Eskin (Vice-President),
 Kris Fournier (Secretary), Diane Gawlinski,
 Paxton Heinrich, Tom King (President),
 Jared Martin, Beverly Niemann*

GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF

JOIN US IN THE TENT! (AKA LUTHER HALL)
 WE'LL HAVE SOME SNACKS, AND A BAKING CHALLENGE FOR ALL AGES.

21 MARCH 2026
1 PM IN LUTHER HALL

Sign up to let us know you are coming:
<https://forms.gle/aoHnspGBvyXWvQXA8>

Questions? Please contact Katie Kurlak:
familyministry@emanuelmanchester.org

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 jagianinio@gmail.com

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: ahenrich@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

WINTER IS STILL 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 or other event on the television and online at WVIT–NBC 30 and WFSB–CBS 3. Members will also receive an email. Please check before you come to the church. We want everyone to be safe.



Upcoming Online Thrivent Education Workshops

Two **online** financial education seminars open to anyone are highlighted below.

Registration required. To register, use the following link: <https://www.thrivent.com/member-network/northeast/events>

Rethinking Retirement Tax Planning

Tuesday, March 10 at 1 p.m. or Tuesday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m.

New Strategies to Keep More of Your Money

Are you curious how tax law changes now can affect your retirement savings and your future legacy? Then consider attending this event. Join Ed Slott for a lively discussion during Rethinking Retirement Tax Planning and gain strategies you can use to help reduce or eliminate taxes now and in the future.

No products will be sold. Ed Slott is not affiliated with or endorsed by Thrivent. The views expressed in this presentation by Ed Slott are his own and not necessarily those of Thrivent or its affiliates. The material presented has been obtained from sources we believe to be reliable and is current. Thrivent and its financial professionals do not provide legal, accounting or tax advice.

Consult your attorney or tax professional. 6055975.1

Retirement, Reimagined: Grow and Protect Your Wealth

Tuesday, March 17 at 1 p.m. or Tuesday, March 17 at 8:30 p.m. or Wednesday, March 18 at 2 p.m.

Ready to build the retirement you want? Discover how to turn savings into confidence, optimize taxes, and enjoy a secure retirement with expert strategies and actionable insights to help you grow, protect, and make the most of your wealth in any market. Join us as we welcome David Blanchett and Michael Finke, who will share practical strategies and fresh perspectives on asset location, Social Security timing, and tax efficient withdrawals. You'll learn how to adapt your plan to changing markets and feel confident about your financial future, with insights that go beyond the numbers to help you make smart, lasting decisions.

No products will be sold. Speaker is not affiliated with Thrivent. Views are their own. Thrivent is the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Insurance products issued by Thrivent. Not available in all states. Licensed agent/producer of Thrivent.

For more information visit: Thrivent.com/social. 8562564.1

Caring

March Birthdays (Emanuel Members 75+ yrs.)

Ruth Lehrach 3/4
Rosemary Hokanson 3/10
Elaine Auger 3/11
Deborah Conklin 3/15
James Hamilton 3/18



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

To Council and the Congregation,

Thank you so much for the beautiful orchid and the generous gift card to Audacity (the wonderful British pub on Main Street in Manchester!) I so appreciate your kindness!

It has been an absolute privilege to serve as your council president these past three years! Your patience, guidance and understanding has helped this faith community grow. We are all here, each in our own way, for service to others, and “God with us”, will continue to be for a very long time.

Thank you again, and may God bless you!

*Peace,
Kathy Rusch*

Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members,

Thank you so much for the generous gift of \$2,214 to MACC Charities.

As MACC Charities marked 53 years of impact this January 19th, your generous gift reminds us how powerful community support can be.

Fifty-three years of building partnerships, strengthening relationships, and working hand in hand with local churches, businesses, organizations, and volunteers. Together, we’ve accomplished so much, and yet, as we look around, we know the need continues to grow. Our community is evolving, and we must continue to evolve with it. That is why we are committed to developing new-age strategies to meet the challenges of a changing world.

Thank you for being part of this mission. Thank you for supporting the work of MACC Charities. Together, we can break cycles of poverty and build a community where all people can thrive.

Many Blessings, Shannon Baldassario—CEO

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 March: Rev. William White Calumet Fund

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.



Emanuel Staff

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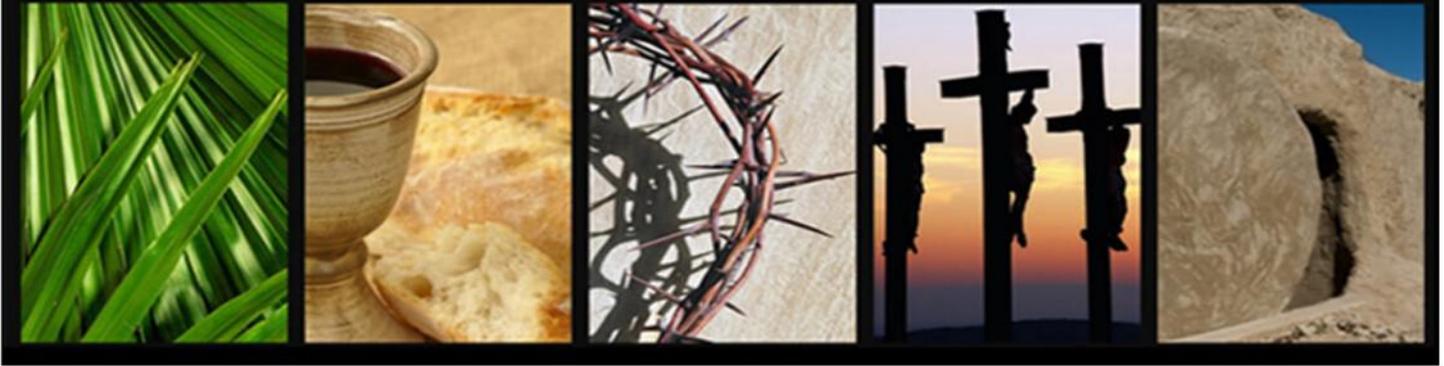
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Gail McGrath and Kathy Rusch
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Berk and Lisa Little
Worship Support Specialists



HOLY WEEK



Concordia Lutheran/Emanuel Lutheran/Ministerio Nueva Creación

April 2—Maundy Thursday at Concordia (40 Pitkin St., Manchester) — 7 PM

April 3—Good Friday at Emanuel (60 Church St., Manchester) — 7 PM

April 4—Easter Vigil at Concordia (40 Pitkin St., Manchester) — 7 PM

April 5—Easter Sunday at Emanuel (60 Church St., Manchester) — 10 AM
at Concordia (40 Pitkin St., Manchester) — 10 AM
Ministerio Nueva Creación (Community Room, 60 Church St.,
Manchester) — 12 noon

Brunch will be held in Luther Hall following MNC worship.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED