



60 Church Street
Manchester, CT 06040

(860) 643-1193
Fax (860) 645-0830

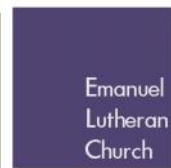
website: www.emanuelmanchester.org

May 2022

Emanuel Lutheran Church



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



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Insert: May 2022 Calendar

Spring is my second favorite time of the year, because it's the exact opposite of my favorite time of the year: fall.

The bulbs that have been stuck under ground over the winter, the seeds that were scattered by the breezes of late summer and the buds that swell on the tips of branches burst into life. Bright colors of pink, yellow and purple are often the first we see. These vibrant colors of spring have no rival for the deep colors of summer.

These reminders of celebration, color and the burst of life from the shadows of winter are reminding me of our Easter service and the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the tomb! Spring is a natural reminder of the very promises that we have been given by God of life after death! At least in the northern hemisphere, we get this natural reminder and we are blessed by it.

This very earthy description connects to our faith as an earthy faith. It seems we often get preoccupied with the heavenly aspect of our Christian traditions when God is here with us in the flesh now. As I said in my Easter sermon we eat the bread and drink the wine of communion to remember that God is so close to us, that God is actually inside of us! The earthly elements of wine and bread, grown from the seeds that are bursting onto the scene in spring are our connection to God.

So, this month, as the weather warms up and your gardens burst to life (even if it's a small window box like what I've got!), get out there and see, touch, smell and taste God in the earth. When you sneeze because you smelled a blooming hyacinth and got too much sweet smelling pollen, be reminded of how your body is rooted in creation and that's exactly where you're supposed to be. It's exactly how God created you to be.

I can't wait to keep looking out at the Memorial Garden at Emanuel to see the blooms come over the next few weeks and to immerse myself into the good creation that our Emanuel community has curated by our church. I hope to see you in the garden too! Come spend some time this month sitting, smelling and feeling God's presence in creation.

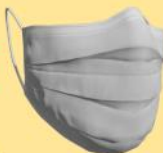
Blessings to you as you witness to God's creation.

Vicar Ryan

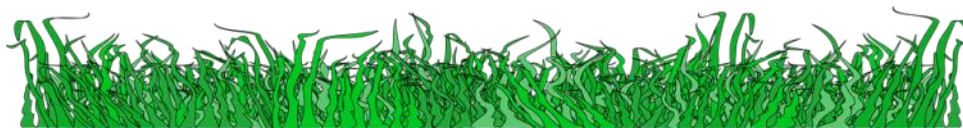
Masks are OPTIONAL inside Emanuel's building.

Masks are RECOMMENDED inside if you are unvaccinated or at high risk for COVID due to chronic health conditions.

Masks are MANDATORY in the Church Office and Copier Room when two or more people are in the office at the same time.



Thank you.



The Property Committee is looking for volunteers to weed the grounds of Emanuel. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex with a slot open each week from May—September. If you sign up, you can weed on any day and any time during that week. It's very flexible and your service will help keep Emanuel's outside beautiful!

Thrivent Opportunities

The Thrivent Choice and Thrivent Action Team programs provide funds for use by Emanuel to support and expand its ministry. The programs give Thrivent members the option to direct some of Thrivent's charitable outreach funds each year. In fact, Thrivent has provided more than \$370 million to help churches, educational institutions, camps, schools, seminaries and campus ministries since 2010.

Ray Purtell has been our Thrivent Coordinator for the last three years. In that time, Emanuel has realized significant benefits despite being hindered by COVID restrictions. They are summarized below.



Thrivent Action Teams

Year	# Teams	# Thrivent Members	Seed Money Received
2019	13	10	\$3,250
2020	4	2	\$1,000
2021	2	1	\$ 500
TOTAL	19	13	\$4,750

Action Team-supported projects: National Youth Gathering, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Altar Guild (new altar candles and vestments), Friends of Music at Emanuel, Christmas gifts and food baskets (3 years), Thanksgiving baskets (3 years), MACC seasonal sharing, care packages for college and trade school students, Pastor Stephanie's installation reception, Sunday School fundraising, and Cindy Hall's celebration of ministry.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Year	Donations Received	Transfers/Disbursements	Balance 12/31
2019	\$ 4,170	\$3,500	\$ 5,945
2020	\$ 4,631	\$ 0	\$10,576
2021	\$ 4,218	\$5,000	\$ 9,794
TOTAL	\$13,019	\$8,500	

These donations are received when Thrivent members designate Emanuel as the recipient of their Thrivent Choice dollars.

As COVID restrictions are eased, there will be increased opportunities for Emanuel to pursue Thrivent Action Team projects to support its ministries. Some potentials, like receiving support for the new pastor's installation reception or doing a project to support the Ukrainian relief effort, could be initiated in the very near future.

If you would like to learn more about this amazing ministry or better yet, be a part of it, please contact Ray Purtell at purt1015@gmail.com

Altar Guild is always looking for volunteers to help set-up & clean-up for worship

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:

Ruth Lehrach: lehrach9@aol.com or Kim Boerner-Mercier: johnkim4@aol.com

Worship volunteers are needed for our single, Sunday morning worship service.

We continue to need the following worship volunteers each Sunday:

Two (2) Communion Assistants, one (1) Assisting Minister, one (1) Lector, and two (2) Ushers.

A sign-up link is emailed out weekly (as volunteers are needed). If you are able and willing to volunteer, please use the electronic sign up. All Sundays for the month will be accessible through the one link.

If you need help or clarification as to what the responsibilities are of each position, you may email Anne at ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org. She can also sign you up for a particular Sunday, if you have difficulty doing so on your own.

From the Parish Nurse

By Lynne Gustafson

Once a month, I am involved in a program entitled: *Reflection on Life* held at Evergreen Crossings. Residents come together to discuss their life's journey. Sometimes our programs have a spiritual theme; others reflect on issues that we face as we approach the later part of our lives. At our last meeting, a resident came to me with the following story and asked if I would read it at the end of the program. As I was reading it, there was complete silence in the room and I noted a tear in a few eyes. I too was so moved by this story that I wish to share it with you.

I do not know the author and when I asked her about it, she said it was sent to her a long time ago and she would reread it when her own life became challenging. Here is the story of Kevin.

I envy Kevin. My brother Kevin thinks God lives under his bed. At least that's what I heard him say one night. He was praying out loud in his dark bedroom and I stopped outside his closed door to listen. "Are you there, God?" he said. "Where are you? Oh I see. Under the bed."

I giggled softly and tiptoed off to my own room. Kevin's unique perspectives are often a source of amusement. But that night something else lingered long after the humor. I realized for the first time the very different world Kevin lives in.

He was born 30 years ago, mentally disabled as a result of difficulties during labor. Apart from his size (6ft. 2in.), there are few ways in which he is an adult. He reasons and communicates with the capabilities of a 7-year-old, and he always will. He will probably always believe that God lives under his bed, that Santa Claus is the one who fills the space under our tree every Christmas and that airplanes stay up in the sky because angels carry them. I remember wondering if Kevin realizes that he is different. Is he ever dissatisfied with his monotonous life? Up before dawn each day, off to work at a workshop for the disabled, home to walk our cocker spaniel, return to eat his favorite macaroni and cheese for dinner and later to bed. The only variation in the entire scheme is laundry, when he hovers excitedly over the washing machine like a mother with her newborn child.

He does not seem dissatisfied. He lopes out to the bus every morning at 7:05, eager for a day of simple work. He wrings his hands excitedly while the water boils on the stove before dinner, and he stays up late twice a week to gather our dirty laundry for his next day's chores. And Saturdays—oh, the bliss of Saturdays! That's the day my dad takes Kevin to the airport to have a soft drink, watch the planes land, and speculate loudly on the destination of each passenger inside. "That one's

goin' Chi-car-go!" Kevin shouts as he claps his hands. His anticipation is so great he can hardly sleep on Friday nights. And so goes his world of daily rituals and weekend field trips. He doesn't know what it means to be discontent. His life is simple. He will never know the entanglements of wealth or power, and he does not care what brand of clothing he wears or what kind of food he eats. His needs have always been met and he never worries that one day they may not be met. His hands are diligent. Kevin is never so happy as when he is working. When he unloads the dishwasher or vacuums the carpet, his heart is completely in it. He does not shrink from a job when it is begun and he does not leave a job until it is finished. But when tasks are done, Kevin knows how to relax. He is not obsessed with his work or the work of others. His heart is pure. He still believes everyone tells the truth, promises must be kept and when you are wrong you apologize instead of argue. Free from pride and unconcerned with appearances, Kevin is not afraid to cry when he is hurt, angry or sorry.

He is always transparent, always sincere. And he trusts God. Not confined by intellectual reasoning, when he comes to Christ, he comes as a child. Kevin seems to know God—to really be friends with Him in a way that is difficult for an "educated" person to grasp. God seems like his closest companion.

In my moments of doubt and frustrations with my Christianity, I envy the security Kevin has in his simple faith. It is then that I am most willing to admit that he has some divine knowledge that rises above my mortal questions.

It is then I realize that perhaps he is not the one with the handicap—I am. My obligations, my fears, my pride, my circumstances—they all become disabilities when I do not trust them to God's care. Who knows if Kevin comprehends things that I can never learn? After all, he has spent his whole life in that kind of innocence, praying after dark and soaking up the goodness and love of God. And one day, when the mysteries of heaven are opened, and we are all amazed at how close God really is to our hearts, I'll realize that God heard the simple prayers of a boy who believed that God lived under his bed.

Kevin won't be surprised at all!

Support Emanuel Lutheran Church through

amazonsmile

To connect with Emanuel as a charity, follow this link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-0662122>

If you have any questions about the program, please contact
Anne at aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org.

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.



Weekly Bible Study

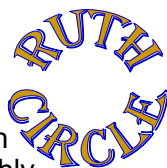
Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets at 7 PM on Zoom.



Thursday Morning Bible Study meets at 10 AM in the Library.

A Year of Biblical Womanhood—Book Study
Sunday, May 1st at 6:30 PM in Luther Hall

Ruth Circle Gathering
Tuesday, May 3rd at 7 PM
in Luther Hall



The congregation is invited to join members of Ruth Circle for their monthly gathering in May. A Manchester police officer is coming to speak to the group about safety, with a focus on women's safety. All are welcome to this important presentation.

Women's Breakfast
Wednesday, May 18th
8:30 AM at Evergreen Crossings
in South Windsor



Cost per person is \$5.
An RSVP to Lynne Gustafson (cgustafson01@snet.net) is required by Tuesday, May 17th.

CLCC Chicken Eggs—On Sale EVERY SUNDAY!

The eggs are \$4 per dozen and they can be purchased and picked up at the inside entrance to the Community Room/Chapel after worship each week.



For questions or reserving eggs in advance, an email can be sent to mijauss@comcast.net or you can call Jane at 860-690-5140.

Designated Giving to Disburse Funds

Emanuel's Designated Giving Committee will be disbursing funds from the Emanuel Memorial Fund in May. If you would like to have your group and/or cause considered to receive funds, you must submit a request form to Nancy Whiton in the Church Office by Friday, May 20. You can pick-up a Request Form in the Narthex or Church Office or print one off of the link on the Weekly Update.

Vicar Ryan's Weekly Open Office Hours

Vicar Ryan's weekly open office hours are held on Wednesdays, from 2-4 PM at Emanuel. Please email him (vicarryan@emanuelmanchester.org) in advance of your visit and limit your visit to 45 minutes. If you would prefer to meet with Vicar Ryan outside of his weekly Wednesday office hours, please email or call (860-643-1193) and he will be happy to schedule a time to meet with you.

Coffee Hour Hosts are needed

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, but we need YOU to sign up as the 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.

Emanuel Lutheran Church has a Calumet Campership Fund and any youth attending camp in the summer is eligible to receive this campership.



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 by Monday, May 16th to secure a Calumet Campership.

The Flower Chart is posted in the Office Hallway.

Please sign up for Altar or Lectern Flowers to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special occasion for any Sunday after Easter. You may also call the Church Office at 860-643-1193 to check if a particular date is available.

Church Office Hours at Emanuel:

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

Events and Items of Interest



YOUTH
EXPLORE THE UNKNOWN
May 20-22, 2022
Camp Calumet
Register at: <https://bit.ly/NESynodYouth>

All high school youth and soon-to-be 9th graders are invited to attend this event to explore the unknowns of our faith and life together.

QUESTIONS?
contact pew@stjohnsudbury.org

New England Synod Youth Event May 20th—22nd at Camp Calumet

Join youth from across New England who are interested in spending time together, having fun and dreaming about what comes next in youth ministry in New England. The national youth gathering may be cancelled, but there's plenty of fun to be had at Calumet, which plays host to this event. Open to youth and all those interested in youth ministry in the New England Synod. If you're grade 9-12 or an adult involved in youth ministry in any way, YOU are invited to our first ever Youth Leadership Summit! We're all sad to miss the ELCA Youth Gathering, but that doesn't mean we have to miss out on being together. At the Youth Leadership Summit we'll have fun, spend time in small groups to get to know each other, learn how youth and adults can make a difference in our own congregations, talk about what a New England Synod Youth Ministry Organization could look like — and hopefully even name it! At the end of the weekend, we will elect and install youth officers to be the inaugural core leadership team of youth and adults to lead us forward!

To register, please visit: <https://bit.ly/NESynodYouth>



Calumet's Walk the Walk 2022 Registration opens May 15th

Walk the Walk has become a very popular and very much appreciated annual event which has brought all kinds of people together for the purpose of **(1) keeping active, (2) growing relationships and (3) supporting Calumet**. With each passing year, it grows. In 2021, **Walk the Walk** was Calumet's biggest program with 1,800 individuals from—literally—all over the world. We're looking to make 2022 even bigger! Read all about it and get ready to register: <https://www.calumet.org/giving/walkthewalk>



Good News Garage



A member of Ascentria Care Alliance

Pass Your Keys to a Neighbor in Need

The pandemic has driven prices of used cars to record highs, leaving many of our neighbors unable to afford safe and reliable vehicles. Without a car, these families are literally stuck at a standstill in their lives. Fortunately, a local nonprofit is able to help those in need. Good News Garage was founded in Burlington, VT in 1996 and over the last 25 years, has awarded over 5,500 donated cars to our neighbors. They couldn't do this life-changing work without the help of generous car donors. **There is currently an urgent need for vehicles!** Car donors receive free towing, qualify for generous tax deductions, and can feel

good about putting a neighbor in the driver's seat towards a better life. Let Good News Garage help you pass your keys. For more information and to donate, visit www.goodnewsgarage.org or call 603-669-6937. You can also "like" GNG's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/goodnewsgarage>.



Red Geraniums for Pentecost

Orders will be taken during the month of May for geraniums that will decorate the Sanctuary at Emanuel for Pentecost Sunday on June 5th. An order form is printed on the back page of this newsletter. You may also pick one up in the Church Office or Sanctuary as well as through a link on the Weekly Update.

Orders must be returned to the Church Office by Monday, May 23rd. Geranium plants are \$5.00 and can be ordered "in honor of", "in memory of" or "to the Glory of God".

March 2022 Treasurer's Report

Account	March 2022 Actual	March 2022 YTD Actual	March 2022 YTD Budget	2022 Annual Budget
Income	\$27,756	\$89,678	\$99,588	\$382,116
Expenses	\$21,909	\$77,329	\$83,583	\$413,811
Net Income	\$5,847	\$12,349	\$16,375	-\$31,695
Member Contributions	\$21,967	\$72,862	\$82,471	\$312,164

One of the challenges of discussing financial results is answering the questions “how are we doing” and “compared to what”. To address these questions, we have historically chosen to measure our progress during the year vs “budget”. To do that, we needed to allocate each line of the budget by month. For income, we have focused on membership contributions. We have relied on the historical patterns of the last few years and the known timing of a small number of very large unpledged gifts. For expenses other than compensation and maintenance, we have tried to reflect the timing of recurring charges and allocated the balance ratably by month. A large portion of the maintenance budget is snow removal bills. Therefore, we allocate most of that portion of the maintenance budget to the second quarter and spread the balance based on a pattern.

The income for the month of March itself had slightly less than budgeted income. The March YTD income was still lower than budget as we have not yet recovered from a deficit in January.

The March expenses for the period are still down due to a refund of worker's compensation premium and lower than expected office and property expenses. The YTD expenses continue to be under budget due to lower than budgeted office and property expenses.

Our Net Income for the year is still under budget as a result of these factors. Member income continues to be under budget as a result of the low member giving in January. It is expected that the month of April will make up some of the loss as the Easter season usually brings higher than expected income.

Help Welcome Afghans to West Springfield, MA

Ascentria Care Alliance is resettling hundreds of Afghans in Western Massachusetts. Your help is needed to ensure that they have the resources they need to access legal aid, housing, and living essentials. Ascentria has resettled **330** individuals throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and expect to welcome **259** more before the process is completed.

Donate an Amazon Wishlist Item

In addition to financial contributions, we are in need of household essentials. Please use our Amazon Wishlist (link below) to donate items such as bedding, plates, glassware, and more that will help Afghan families and individuals get settled in their new homes!

https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/lr/2XWVO24RR503I/ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl

EMPOWERING PEOPLE. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

Ascentria Care Alliance: What does "Ascentria" mean? We define it as "rising together." At Ascentria Care Alliance (formerly Lutheran Social Services of New England), we are called to strengthen communities by empowering people to respond to life's challenges. Our faith-based legacy remains the heart and soul of our mission, vision and values. For more information, please visit: <https://www.ascentria.org/>

Emanuel's Rocks of Kindness Garden started three years ago with close to 100 painted rocks and now the garden is empty of rocks. It's wonderful to know that our Kindness Garden is making a difference and blessing the lives of the people passing by the garden, taking a rock to share with loved ones or strangers, however it means **we need more painted rocks to keep the kindness going!** If you are able to paint a few rocks and either place them in the garden or bring them to the Church Office, where we'll treat them with a protectant spray and then we'll place them in the garden. Thank you!



Caring

May Birthdays

Althea MacLean	5/6	Ann Cook	5/11
Carol Sullivan	5/11	Monique Falcon	5/16
Donald Anderson	5/27		

Pastoral Acts

Funeral: Barry VanCamp



HOPE for Loved Ones

Helping create Recovery Friendly Communities

102 Norman St.,
Manchester CT

06040

**Saturday
May 21st
12 pm - 3pm**
Recovery support,
resources, information
available to all
**Free Narcan training, free
Narcan, and free lunch to
those who attend**



**Scholarships Now Open
Easy Applications
Due by June 1, 2022**

► For Manchester Community College (\$500)

The Ed & Eleanor Coltman Scholarship is offered to students enrolled in Manchester Community College associate degree or certificate programs (fall 2022). Contact Penni Micca at 860-643-3338 or email miccap@manchesterct.gov.



► For Eagle Scouts / Girl Scouts Gold (\$1,000)



The Justus Joy Scholarship is for Eagle Scouts and Girl Scout Gold Award recipients in Manchester CT Troops who are going to two- or four-year college (fall 2022). Contact Dale Doll at 860-402-1692 or email daledoll370@gmail.com.

► For Culinary Arts students (\$500)

The Dorothy "Dotti" Cannon Scholarship honors her legacy and love of cooking. Offered to students enrolled in a post-secondary culinary arts degree or certificate program (fall 2022). Contact Penni Micca at 860-643-3338 or email miccap@manchesterct.gov.



Questions? Please contact Penni Micca at
miccap@manchesterct.gov

Awarded by: MCSC, P.O. Box 4032, Manchester, CT 06045-4032

Emanuel Staff

(860) 643-1193

Vicar Ryan Heckman
vicarryan@emanuelmanchester.org
Ext. 303

Dr. Jun Lee
Director of Music
jlee@emanuelmanchester.org
Ext. 307

Danielle Berneski and Julie Kamp
Co-Directors of Family Ministries
familyministry@emanuelmanchester.org
Ext. 304

Nancy Whiton
Administrative Assistant
nwhiton@emanuelmanchester.org
Ext. 309

Anne Heinrich
Church Secretary
aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org
Ext. 300

Kathy Hatch
Property Supervisor
Khatch4@gmail.com

Barton Sattler
Co-Treasurer
barton.sattler@gmail.com

Rosemary Johnson
Co-Treasurer
rcjohnson77@gmail.com

Eric Carlson
Financial Secretary
eric.carlson4191@gmail.com

Lynne Gustafson
Parish Nurse
cgustafson01@snet.net

Kathy Purtell
Council President
kray524@gmail.com

Berk Little and Kathy Rusch
Worship Support Specialists



Pentecost Geraniums

Please Print

I/We _____, wish to order # _____
red Pentecost geranium plants to decorate Emanuel for June 5, 2022—Pentecost Sunday.

The plants are given:

In memory of: _____

or

In honor of: _____

or

To the Glory of God: _____.

The plants cost \$5.00 each.

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

Please make checks payable to **Emanuel Lutheran Church**, designated for *Pentecost flowers*.

Deadline for ordering is Monday, May 23, 2022.

Please mail this form, along with
your check to the church office.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Emanuel Lutheran Church
60 Church Street
Manchester, CT 06040

