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May 2024

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

"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good."
—Genesis 1:31

On Easter Sunday, during the children's sermon, one kiddo—Nathan—summed up the Easter story beautifully. So beautiful that I handed him the microphone and had him repeat what he said.

He said, "Easter celebrates that even if you do sins, which everyone has done, Jesus still loves you and you can go to heaven. And so we celebrate (on Easter) how Jesus loves you and he was resurrected."

The clergy leadership coach that I meet with often asks the question—What have you seen that you think God takes delight in? I think God took delight in Nathan's answer. I think God takes delight in the questions the children asked.

I like that question—What have you seen that you think God takes delight in—because it forces us to see the good in a time where it's so easy to only see bad. It can be easy for us to focus on sin and the ways we often get it wrong, rather than acknowledging the pieces that God may find joy in. God did declare everything God made as good. Indeed, very good.

During the month of May, there will be pieces of paper where you can write down what you have seen that you think God takes delight in during the week. We'll hang them up for all of us to read.

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

You may have noticed that a QR code has been added to the front cover of the bulletin and on small cards placed in the pews of the sanctuary. If scanned, the code will take you directly to Emanuel's secure donation page. Once you are on the donation page, you can choose to designate your donation to a specific fund or the General Fund.

We want to give everyone the option to easily donate online at any time.



With the **\$1,195** collected for the Sunday School service project, the children decided to purchase the following animals from the ELCA Global Barnyard to help make an impact in communities around the world where help is needed: A Family farm which includes a cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds, and agricultural training (\$715); a Fish farm (\$250); Honeybees and a community vegetable garden (\$220); and ten chicks (\$10). The Sunday School children thank you again for helping them with their service project this year!

Church Office Hours:

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

Athanasian Creed

By Edward Gawlinski

On most Sundays we say the Apostles Creed (I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,). On more solemn Sundays we use the slightly more elaborate Nicene Creed (We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible.) Both of these Creeds follow the same form. Three sections: belief in the Father; belief in the Son; belief in the Holy Spirit.

Lutheran worship uses three Creeds. The third one is the Athanasian Creed. (Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholic faith. Which faith unless every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly. And the Catholic faith is this: that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Essence.)

The Athanasian Creed is divided into two sections. In lines 1–28 we say what we believe about the Trinity. In lines 29–44 we say what we believe about Jesus Christ. The first section of the creed ascribes the divine attributes to persons of the Trinity individually (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit). Thus, each person of the Trinity is described as uncreated (increated), limitless (Immensus), eternal (æternus), and omnipotent (omnipotens).

The three Creeds are the result of debates during the first centuries of the Church over what we believe. What do we believe?—First: we believe in one God, as is stated in the "creeds" of Judaism ("Here, O Israel, he Lord our God is One.") and Islam ("There is no god but The God").

Second, we believe that there are three persons in the one God. What does that mean? That is a really hard question. We should ask that question every time we pray the Creed. Lutherans may have memorized the Small Catechism, Catholics may have memorized the Baltimore Catechism, the descendants of the Puritans may have memorized the Westminster Catechism, we might look at thousands of shamrocks every March and contemplate Saint Patrick's explanation over a glass of Jameson but if we are honest I don't think any of us really understands this mystery.

Third we believe that Christ is both completely divine and completely human at the same time. Two of the great heresies of the early church are (1) Jesus was God but not really human and (2) Jesus was human but not really God. What does being true God and true Man really mean? To be honest, I don't know. I can stand each Sunday and say "I believe" or we can stand and say together "we believe." Maybe it is a good thing that we don't have to stand and say "we understand."

The good thing about praying the Athanasian Creed once a year is that we have not memorized it so it sounds strange to us. Because it sounds strange to us we are forced to ask ourselves—do I really believe this? During the Easter season we read the Gospel Story of doubting Thomas and if we are honest we see ourselves at the subject of that story. Maybe if we are honest when praying the Creed each Sunday we know that this is about what we humbly aspire to become not what we proudly proclaim to be.

When I first started to worship at Emanuel (1978) we used the Athanasian Creed once a year on Trinity Sunday. In 1978 the Nicene Creed was used on Communion Sundays which was once a month. The Apostles Creed was used on other Sundays. As Emanuel evolved to have Communion every Sunday the choice of which Creed to use when also evolved.

I had not heard the Athanasian Creed before coming to Emanuel. After Vatican II the Athanasian Creed was dropped from the Catholic liturgy. It is, however, maintained in the rite of exorcism. As the Apostle's Creed is part of praying the rosary, that was the Creed I had used the most. I am old enough to have memorized the Nicene Creed in Latin as that is the Creed that was used in the Mass.

Although I don't have the statistics I think that 45 years ago most Lutheran Churches used the Athanasian Creed on Trinity Sunday. I think that today most Lutheran Churches do not use it. Maybe because most people who come to Emanuel on Trinity Sunday 2024 will not be familiar with the Athanasian Creed we should not use it that Sunday. Maybe because most people who come to Emanuel on Trinity Sunday 2024 will not be familiar with the Athanasian Creed we should use it that Sunday. Maybe we should each take some time to read the Athanasian creed and think about it. Reading this makes me uncomfortable but feeling uncomfortable is sometimes what we need.

We will not be reciting the Athanasian Creed during worship at Emanuel on Trinity Sunday, however if you would like to read the Athanasian Creed in its entirety, it is printed on page 3.

<https://www.elca.org/Faith/ELCA-Teaching/Scripture-Creeds-Confessions>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athanasian_Creed

Athanasian Creed

The words of the Athanasian Creed:

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholic faith. Which faith unless every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly. And the Catholic faith is this: that we worship one God in Trinity; and Trinity in Unity; neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Essence. For there is one Person of the Father; another of the Son; and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one; the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is; such is the Son; and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreated; the Son uncreated; and the Holy Ghost uncreated. The Father infinite; the Son infinite; and the Holy Ghost infinite. The Father eternal; the Son eternal; and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three eternals; but one eternal. As also there are not three uncreated; nor three infinities, but one uncreated; and one infinite. So likewise the Father is Almighty; the Son Almighty; and the Holy Ghost Almighty. And yet they are not three Almighties; but one Almighty.

So the Father is God; the Son is God; and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three Gods; but one God. So likewise the Father is Lord; the Son Lord; and the Holy Ghost Lord. And yet not three Lords; but one Lord. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity; to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord; So are we forbidden by the Catholic religion; to say, There are three Gods, or three Lords. The Father is made of none; neither created, nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone; not made, nor created; but begotten. The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son; neither made, nor created, nor begotten; but proceeding. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts. And in this Trinity none is before, or after another; none is greater, or less than another. But the whole three Persons are coeternal, and coequal. So that in all things, as aforesaid; the Unity in Trinity, and the Trinity in Unity, is to be worshipped. He therefore that will be saved, let him thus think of the Trinity.

Furthermore, it is necessary to everlasting salvation; that he also believe faithfully the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the right Faith is, that we believe and confess; that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man; God, of the Substance [Essence] of the Father; begotten before the worlds; and Man, of the Substance [Essence] of his mother, born in the world. Perfect God; and perfect Man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting. Equal to the Father, as touching his Godhead; and inferior to the Father as touching his Manhood. Who although he is God and Man; yet he is not two, but one Christ. One; not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh; but by assumption of the Manhood into God. One altogether; not by confusion of Substance [Essence]; but by unity of Person. For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man; so God and Man is one Christ; Who suffered for our salvation; descended into hell; rose again the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, he sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence he will come to judge the living and the dead. At whose coming all men will rise again with their bodies; And shall give account for their own works. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting; and they that have done evil, into everlasting fire. This is the Catholic faith; which except a man believe truly and firmly, he cannot be saved.

Save the Date: Saturday, May 11th at 4 PM, Vicar Ryan Heckman becomes Pastor Ryan Heckman

On Sunday, May 5th Vicar Ryan, as he's known to us at Emanuel, will have a call vote to be the Associate Pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Avon, CT. Please keep Ryan and St. Matthew in your prayers over the coming weeks. **Once the call vote is official, Ryan will be ordained at Emanuel at 4 PM on Saturday, May 11th.** An appetizer reception, called Brews with PASTOR Ryan, will follow the service in Luther Hall. We hope you can celebrate with Ryan! **If you are willing to serve as an usher or greeter for the Ordination Service, please email Anne (ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org)**

Emanuel Grounds Spring Clean Up Day—RESCHEDULED DATE: Saturday, May 4th from 9 AM—1 PM

We will be raking, picking up sticks, weeding, rolling the lawn and possibly pulling and planting some new plants. Please bring your own gloves and bring rakes or gardening tools if you have them. We hope you will join us! If you have any question, please contact Berk Little in person or by email to: littlezab@comcast.net. If you previously signed up for the rained out April 20th date, and can make it on May 4th, please sign-up again. There is a new sign-up sheet in the narthex.

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 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 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 it is on the wall directly in front of you.

The Church Office will be CLOSED on Monday, May 27th and Friday, May 31st.

Weekly Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 10 AM in the library.

Ruth Circle Gathering

Tuesday, May 7th at 6 PM in Luther Hall



If you are an adult woman of the church and would like to learn more about Ruth Circle, or a current member please join us for a Potluck and Planning Meeting to share program ideas for the 2024-2025 year.

Hostesses are: Marianne Wilcox, Lisa Sattler, and Kim Boerner-Mercier.

Women's Breakfast

**Wednesday, May 15th at 8:30 AM
Evergreen Crossings, 900 Hemlock Avenue
in South Windsor**

Cost per person is \$8.

An RSVP to Lynne Gustafson: cgustafson01@snet.net is required by Tuesday, May 14th.

If you are a Communion Assistant or the Assisting Minister during Sunday morning worship, please note that wearing a face mask is required when serving the communion elements.

This is just a reminder for all members of Emanuel (new and old), that we have an Online Member Pictorial Directory.

You can access the directory on your laptop or 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: ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org

Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be getting together for a gathering on **Monday, May 20th, at 10:00 AM in Luther Hall**. We would love to have any of our prayer shawl makers or those interested in making prayer shawls join us. All are welcome!

We look forward to seeing you in May!

Blessing of Campfield Heinrich as he moves to Seminary on Sunday, May 26th

Campfield Heinrich will move to the Gettysburg Campus of United Lutheran Seminary at the beginning of June, and we will be sending him off with our blessing and prayers during worship on Sunday, May 26th.

On the 26th, there will be basket for cards if you'd like to write a note of encouragement for Campfield.

The last day of Sunday School is Sunday, May 5th.
Sunday School will resume on September 15th.

There will be a Children's Sermon during worship on May 12th and once a month during the summer.

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 June 2024 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.

MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 <i>Assisting Minister - Ray Purtell</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:30am Newcomers Brunch - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	29	30 <i>Deadline for Ordering Geraniums for Pentecost</i> 10:30am Staff Meeting	1	2 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	3 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	4 9:00am Mulching of Emanuel's Gardens 9:00am Music Together Class - CR 2:30pm Flute Recital Rehearsal - SA 4:00pm Flute Recital - SA
5 <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> <i>Last Day of Sunday School</i> <i>Pastor Brett Hertzog Betkoski preaching and presiding</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:30am Confirmation Class - Youth Room 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	6	7 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Ruth Circle Potluck and Planning - LH	8	9 ASCENSION OF OUR LORD 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	10 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	11 9:00am Music Together Class - CR 11:00am Memorial Service for Alan Thomas 12:00pm Funeral Reception - LH
12 <i>Assisting Minister - Kathy Rusch</i> <i>Children's Sermon during Worship Service</i> 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Worship Service at Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor	13 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting - LH	14 10:30am Staff Meeting	15 Visitor newsletter deadline 8:30am Women's Breakfast - Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor	16 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	17 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	18 9:00am Music Together Class - CR
19 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> <i>Confirmation during Worship</i> DAY OF PENTECOST 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	20 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry - LH	21 10:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting - LH	22 CHP - Last Day of Class	23 9:30am CHP - End of School Year Celebration - Outside (in LH if rain) 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	24 Visitor newsletter mailing 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	25 9:00am Music Together Class - CR
26 <i>Assisting Minister - Ben Hogue</i> <i>Baptism</i> THE HOLY TRINITY 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	27 MEMORIAL DAY - OFFICE CLOSED	28 10:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Emanuel Housing Corp. Meeting - LH	29	30 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	31 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	1 9:00am Music Together Class - CR 12:00pm CHP 50th Anniversary Celebration - LH/Classrooms/CR Parking Lot

2024 NE Synod Bishop Election—Update

Biographies now available

The Bishop Election Team has now shared the biographies of those individuals whose names were submitted during the pre-identification period. Each individual named was asked to discern if they chose to move forward in the process. If so, they provided biographical and disclosure information and completed a background check. The individuals are:

Pr. Marjo Anderson, The Rev. Sara J. Anderson, The Rev. Susan Gaeta, The Rev. Scott Howard, The Rev. Erica Kennedy, The Rev. Jeanette Leisk, The Rev. Timothy Oslovich, The Rev. William Petersen, The Rev. Nathan Piphio, The Rev. Kyle Seibert, and The Rev. Kari Jo Verhulst.

The biographies along with an outline of the voting process as it will take place at synod assembly, and information of the overall process and timeline are available on the synod webpage dedicated to the election:

<https://www.nelutherans.org/bishop-election>

Questions may be addressed to the bishop election team via email to bishop-election@nesynod.org.



Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024

On Pentecost Sunday, we will celebrate the coming of the Spirit as we also give thanks for five young people who will affirm their faith during worship at 10 AM.



Lucas Anderson

Caroline Benson

Zachary Guglielmone

Carolyn Kamp

Logan Ledoux

Coffee Hours

Coffee Hour will be held every Sunday following worship unless otherwise noted. The person responsible for opening the building will make the coffee each week. If you are willing to bring goodies, cream and/or milk and will stay to help clean up afterward, please sign up to host the coffee hour.

The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Any food leftover may also be used for the following week's coffee hour.

Think about hosting in teams of two! We look forward to the fellowship!



The Flower Chart is posted in the Office Hallway.

You can sign up for Altar or Lectern Flowers to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. You may also call the Church Office at 860-643-1193 to check if a particular date is available. Please be sure to fill out a flower order form (located next to the sign up sheet). *On the order form, you can even designate the type and/or color of flowers that you prefer in the arrangement.*

Leave the form for Anne in the Church Office. She will order the flowers and Park Hill Joyce will send the bill directly to your mailing address.

Altar flowers are \$50 and Lectern flowers are \$35.

MACC Community Food Pantry

Food donations are in great need as summer approaches. Some food items that are always in need are: *Instant Potatoes, Chili, Beef Stew, Ketchup, Canned Veggies, Peanut Butter/Jelly, Mayonnaise, Baking Mix (Cake & Brownie), Cooking Oil, Rice/Rice Mixes, Canned Pasta, and Beans.*

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.



Caring

May Birthdays (Emanuel Members 75+ yrs.)

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



Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members,
Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,983.86 to MACC Charities, of which, \$1,118.00 is towards our 2024 Souper Bowl of Caring Fundraiser. I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your unselfish contribution to our organization itself. Thank you! Your donation is very important to us. It helps the continuity of our commitment to serving our community and bridges a gap to building partnerships to break cycles of poverty. We are blessed to have partners like you. Have a wonderful Easter season.

Many Blessings,
Shannon Baldassario – CEO

Dear Prayer Shawl “knitters”,
My father, Ron Stephens, and his three siblings were all confirmed at Emanuel Lutheran Church. My dad's sister, Emma (Stephens) Larson recently lost her husband, my Uncle Hal. I traveled to Tucson, Arizona to attend his Celebration of Life and with me I took a Prayer Shawl for my aunt. She was thrilled to have such a special piece from her childhood church. Thank you for your talents, time, and love in making these treasures.

Jeni Minicucci



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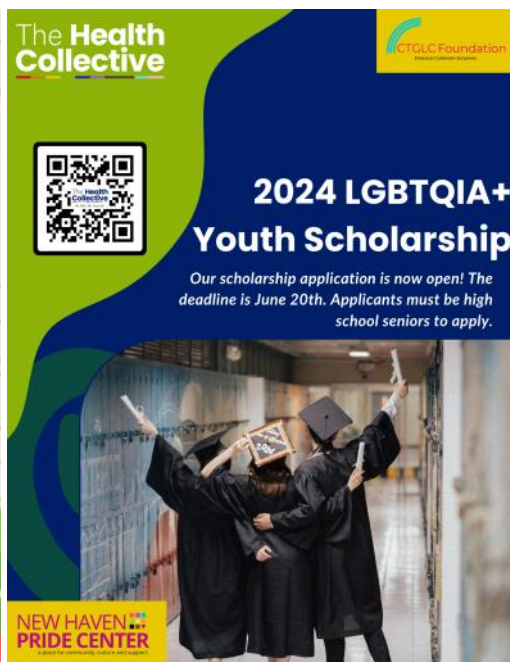
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Berk Little and Kathy Rusch
Worship Support Specialists





Connecting faith & finances for good.®

Thrivent Education Programs

Thrivent is offering the following **FREE** online seminars to both members and non-members. For more information and to register, use the links below.

Savvy Tax Strategies
Online Webinar- English

Tuesday, May 7 at 1:00 PM or 7:30 PM

Fact #1: Taxes can be complicated.

Fact #2: No one wants to pay more than their fair share.

Join us for this virtual workshop, Savvy Tax Strategies, presented by Thrivent financial professional, Mike Fuehrmeyer.

When it comes to taxes and your retirement, a little knowledge can go a long way - and maybe even help you save more of your hard-earned money. Join us for this virtual workshop, Savvy Tax Strategies. During this workshop, we will cut through the jargon and complexity to help you understand how to create an efficient retirement tax strategy.

No products will be sold. See [thrivent.com/social](https://www.thrivent.com/social) for additional disclosures.

Register here:

<https://www.thrivent.com/member-network/northeast/events>

Savvy Social Security
Online Webinar- English

Tuesday, May 21 at 1:00 PM or 7:30 PM

Join us for this virtual workshop, Savvy Social Security, presented by Thrivent financial professional, Mike Fuehrmeyer.

When should I file for Social Security benefits?

Will I pay taxes on my Social Security benefits?

If I file and continue to work, how will my benefits be affected?

When it comes to Social Security and your retirement, a little knowledge can go a long way. Join us for this virtual workshop, Savvy Social Security. During this workshop, you will learn how to help determine the ideal time to apply and ways to maximize your Social Security benefits while minimizing taxes on those benefits. Careful planning can help you get the most out of your Social Security benefits.

No products will be sold. See [thrivent.com/social](https://www.thrivent.com/social) for additional disclosures.

Register here:

<https://www.thrivent.com/member-network/northeast/events>