



60 Church Street
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website: www.emanuelmanchester.org

May 2025

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

I get that "mortal" refers to being subject to death. But there's another definition I really love which is "belonging to this world."

—Nadia Bolz-Weber

When we hear the word *mortal*, we often think of death—a reminder of our fragility, our limitations, the fact that this life doesn't go on forever. And that's true. But Nadia Bolz-Weber offers a second definition that I find beautiful: "belonging to this world."

What a beautiful truth that is—we *belong* here. Not just as visitors passing through, not as souls waiting for the "real" life to begin somewhere else, but as living, breathing parts of *this* world. This messy, marvelous, heartbreaking, hope-filled world.

To be mortal isn't just to die—it's to *live here*. To be grounded in dirt and delight. To hold the hand of a friend, to sing with cracked voices in the sanctuary, to laugh so hard we cry and to cry until grace finds us. It means we get to witness spring return to the trees, to feel rain on our faces, to break bread and share stories.

God put skin on and walked among us—Jesus chose to be mortal. He chose to belong to this world. And because of that, our lives—our *mortal* lives—are sacred.

So this month, after Easter, I invite you to embrace your mortality not as a limitation, but as a blessing. Let it remind you to be present. Let it root you in this world that God so loves. Let it draw you into deeper compassion for one another and for yourself.

We are mortals, and we belong to this world and one another. What good news that is.

Peace to you and yours,

Pastor Joanna

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 May: **Special Music 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.



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

Flowers, Lost and Found, Member Directory, Coffee Hours



The 2025 Flower Chart is posted in the office hallway and available online!

You can sign-up for Altar or Lectern Flowers to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special occasion.

You can sign-up for altar or lectern flowers in one of three ways:

- ♦ On the paper sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Church Office hallway. Please be sure to fill out a flower order form (located next to the sign-up sheet), and leave the form for Anne in the Church Office. *On the order form, you can even designate the type and/or color of flowers that you prefer in the arrangement.*
- ♦ Through the online sign-up sheet:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1N7YC_4StAVRRQGedU4_xUewyRK4VnsT1elyJR9GKLa4/edit?usp=sharing
- ♦ Call or email Anne in the Church Office: 860-643-1193 or ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org

Anne will order the flowers, and Park Hill Joyce Florist will send the bill directly to your mailing address. *Altar flowers (two arrangements) are \$50, and the Lectern flowers (one arrangement) are \$35.*

You may also sponsor the Sunday bulletins. Each Sunday is \$20.

Please send payment to the Church Office. You can sign-up for bulletins in the ways noted above.

The online link is: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BtdtsMiKUnTFv_xz4Gh5iBsH71H0j4sF_JQ8P02_mik/edit?usp=sharing

Lost and Found

Emanuel Lutheran Church has a large "LOST and FOUND" box (pictured here) that is located in the vestibule outside of the Community Room/Chapel. It is stuffed full of clothing, travel coffee mugs, a insulated lunch bag, a couple of Christmas serving platters, stuffed animals, a child's purse, and the list goes on! If you have misplaced anything over the last (10 years!), please take a look through the box. All unclaimed items will be donated this summer to MACC's Community Threads Thrift Shoppe. Smaller items such as jewelry and keys are kept in the church office.



Please connect with Anne in the church office or email her: ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org and let her know what particular, small item you are missing. If keys are not claimed, they will be thrown away this summer.

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: ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org



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/1uFDDtVaSqBAXWhfcOeNICaNBfsM6oeYYcdt7IMOD_ZE/edit?usp=sharing
- ♦ Call or email Anne in the Church Office: 860-643-1193 or ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org



2025 Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Photos



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.

Ruth Circle Gathering

**Tuesday, May 6th at 6:00 PM
in Luther Hall**

If you are an adult woman of the church and would like to learn more about Ruth Circle, or are a current member, please join us for a Potluck and Planning Meeting to share program ideas for the 2025-2026 program year.

Please note the earlier 6:00 PM start time.

Hostesses: Joyce Halmers, Marge Andersen, and Jeannine Johnson.



**The Church Office will be CLOSED on
Friday, May 9th and Monday, May 26th.**

The last day of Sunday School is Sunday, May 4th.
Sunday School will resume on September 14th.

There will be a Children's Sermon during worship on May 11th and once a month during the summer.

Women's Breakfast

Wednesday, May 21st at 9 AM

Cosmic Omelet, 485 Hartford Road, Manchester

The Women's Breakfast group will gather at the Cosmic Omelet restaurant in Manchester. The restaurant will issue separate checks for each individual attending the breakfast. All women from Emanuel are welcome!

If you would like to attend, a RSVP to Lynne Gustafson: cgustafson01@snet.net is required by MONDAY, May 19th.

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 2025 are accessible through one link.

If you have difficulty signing up for a particular Sunday, email Anne at ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org and let her know what date and what volunteer position you would like.

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

SAVE THE DATE...

Handbell "Bootcamp"

Saturday, June 14, 2025

from 10 AM—2 PM at Emanuel



We are very excited to provide this opportunity for our members to learn a little bit about handbell ringing, and to spend some time together making music. Registration is required and will be available in May. We will be asking for some information about previous experiences. Please know that *all* are welcome to join this, including those with limited or no experience playing handbells or reading music. We'll be asking for this information just to ensure that everyone has a successful and enjoyable experience. This Bootcamp will culminate in the performance of an Anthem during our 10 AM worship service on Sunday, June 15th. We ask if you plan to come to the Bootcamp, you also plan to come to church to ring the next day!

Please contact Jeff Sirois, Director of Music, (jsirois@emanuelmanchester.org) with any questions you may have.

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 <i>Assisting Minister - Ray Purtell</i> <i>Landon Crockett Baptism During Worship</i> <i>Q&A Coffee Hour in Luther Hall regarding ELC Constitution and Bylaw updates/revisions</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:30am Confirmation Class - Youth Room 1:00pm Mini Golf and Ice Cream at Fairways in South Windsor - 75 Spielman Road, South Windsor, CT 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	28 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter mailing 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	29 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Finance Committee meeting - Luther Hall and via Zoom	30 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	1 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	2 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	3 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room 11:00am Memorial Service for Judy Anderson in the Sanctuary 12:00pm Funeral Reception for Judy Anderson in Luther Hall
4 <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> <i>Becca Piel from Mosaic will give a Temple Talk during worship</i> <i>Last Day of Sunday School Celebration</i> <i>Sunday School children will present their 2025 Service Project during worship</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	5 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	6 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 6:00pm Ruth Circle Gathering: "Potluck and Planning" - LH	7 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	8 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	9 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	10 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room
11 <i>Assisting Minister - Kathy Rusch</i> <i>Children's Sermon during worship - No Sunday School</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	12 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting - LH	13 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom	14 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	15 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED Visitor newsletter deadline 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	16 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	17 Christ Church Ladies Tea - LH 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room
18 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> <i>Noriella Dorothea Guzman Baptism During Worship</i> 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:30am Confirmation Class - Youth Room 1:00pm Congregation Event: Yard Goats Baseball Game - Dunkin Park, Hartford, CT 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	19 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	20 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Council Meeting - LH	21 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 9:00am Women's Breakfast - Cosmic Omelet, 485 Hartford Road, Manchester	22 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	23 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	24 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room
25 <i>Assisting Minister - Ben Hogue</i> <i>Owen Thomas Kulak Baptism During Worship</i> 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	26 OFFICE CLOSED - Memorial Day 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	27 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Emanuel Housing Corp. Meeting - LH	28 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter mailing	29 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library	30 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM New England Synod Assembly - DCU Center, Worcester, MA 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	31 New England Synod Assembly - DCU Center, Worcester, MA 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room

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.

Congregation Event, Emanuel Committee Spotlight

Agape (Love) Feast



JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE FOCUSED ON PRAISE, FELLOWSHIP AND MUSIC, FEATURING TALENTED MUSICIAN GABRIEL LANDSTEDT

**SATURDAY
MAY 3, 2025
9:30AM**

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
248 BROADWAY
NORWICH, CT 06351

The Agape (Love) Feast is more of a worship service with a small bite to eat than a feast. The purpose is to bring different churches together for an hour-long service of Praise, Music and a bite to eat. It's happening on a Saturday so it won't interfere with your usual Sunday worship. Please join us!

Peace, Pastor Eric

All are welcome!

All our Christian neighbors from area churches are invited.

Bring a friend!



Congregation Event: Hartford Yard Goats Baseball Game Sunday, May 18th at 1:10 PM at Dunkin Park, Hartford

A sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex. Sign-up with your name and the number of tickets you would like. When you sign up, please pick up a ticket reservation form (located next to the sign-up sheet), and submit the form along with check or cash to the church office— **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, MAY 4th**. Tickets are \$14. Emanuel will pay for any child aged 12 and under. The game is against the Binghamton Rumble Ponies (NY Mets affiliation). Seats are in left field. Family and friends are welcome!

Any questions, please contact Kathy Rusch (krusch2@comcast.net) or Diane Gawlinski

Designated Giving to Disburse Funds

Emanuel's Designated Giving Committee will disburse funds from the Emanuel Memorial Fund in May 2025. If you would like to have your group and/or cause considered to receive funds, you must submit a request form to Anne Heinrich in the Church Office by Wednesday, May 21st. You can pick-up a Request Form in the Narthex or Church Office or print one from the link on the Friday Weekly Update.

Committee Spotlight: Designated Giving

The objective of the Designated Giving Committee is to disburse money from the Emanuel Memorial Fund. Requests for funding come from church members and other sources. The committee members attempt to divide disbursements into three equal parts in the following categories:

Church:

Disbursements are used to improve conditions or assist members and staff at Emanuel.

Local:

Disbursements are directed toward causes which impact conditions in our town, state or country.

Worldwide:

Disbursements may be used to fund needs of global organizations.

If you are interested in learning more about the Designated Giving committee or if you think you might want to join the committee, please speak with Elsa Robinson, Linda Eckblom or Rich Marsh.



Members: (left to right)
Elsa Robinson, Chair, Linda Eckblom, Richard Marsh

Caring

May Birthdays (Emanuel Members 75+ yrs.)

Craig Johnson	5/5
Patricia Sack	5/6
Ann Cook	5/11
Carol Sullivan	5/11
Donald Anderson	5/27
Eric Haaga	5/27



*Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members,
Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,493.90 to MACC Charities. Your donation is incredibly important to us, especially at a time when our economy finds many in our community more in need than ever before. Your support helps ensure the continuity of our commitment to serving those who need it most and strengthens the partnerships that are breaking cycles of poverty. We are truly blessed to have partners like you.*

*Many Blessings,
Shannon Baldassario—CEO*

*Our Church Family,
Thank you all so much for Joe's beautiful prayer shawl. It has given him comfort during this difficult time. We are so grateful for the support of you all. God has blessed us with an incredible church family.*

*Love,
Joe, Danielle, and Noah Berneski*

Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness to the Kurlak family! We raised \$1,500 to purchase gift cards for them to help make dinner a bit easier during a hard time. Below is a thank you note from Katie and Paul.

*Dear Church family,
We just want to say thank you for all the support and prayers we've received over the past couple months. It really was touching to read all the cards with encouragement and to receive such a large donation so we didn't have to worry about getting meals. We really weren't expecting that but we are very grateful for your generosity. It is humbling that so many people are praying for us and my recovery and it truly touched us. Additional thanks to those that volunteered to watch our kids so we could get to doctor's appointments. We are so thankful to have a church family that really cares and shows Christ's love.*

*Thanks,
Katie and Paul*



Emanuel Staff

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Jodi Eskin
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Berk Little and Kathy Rusch
Worship Support Specialists





Emanuel's Rock Garden of Kindness continues to be a popular destination!

Our Kindness Rock Garden continues to make a difference in blessing the lives of the people passing by. Rocks are usually taken within a few days of being put out. If you can paint a few rocks and either place them in the garden or bring them to the church office, (where they will be treated with a protectant spray), we would be grateful. If you have any small, blank rocks at home that you could donate to be painted on, please bring them to the church office. Your kindness is appreciated!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED