



60 Church Street
Manchester, CT 06040

(860) 643-1193

website: www.emanuelmanchester.org

October 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

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." — 1 Peter 4:10

When I lived in Washington DC, I found a small round dining table for free on the side of the road. That table has followed me to every home I have had since—an apartment in Philadelphia, a home with a salt pond in the backyard in Rhode Island, to our home in Portland. The table is now on our sunporch. It has seen many Monopoly games with more kids gathered around it than can comfortably fit. There are splatters of paint and glitter and more scratches than I can count.

There is something beautiful about a well-loved table. It is a place where we gather, share stories, laugh, listen, and care for one another. And when someone new arrives, we make room. We pull up another chair and make the table a little longer.

This fall, our Stewardship Appeal at Emanuel is called **"Building a Longer Table: Making Room for All."** God has made room for us, and we are called to make room for one another.

Each of us has received gifts from God, and we are called to share those gifts in service to one another. Stewardship is about more than financial giving. It is also about the time, talents, creativity, compassion, music, prayers, and hospitality we offer to God and to one another. At Emanuel, we build a longer table whenever we gather for worship, welcome a neighbor, care for one another, support our ministry partners, and extend God's love beyond our walls. Our financial generosity helps make all of this possible.

Over the coming weeks, you will hear more about our ministries through temple talks, bulletin inserts, and a special Stewardship brochure. Please take time to pray, talk with your family, and complete a Statement of Intent.

On Sunday, October 18, we will celebrate Stewardship Sunday by bringing our Statements of Intent forward during worship. If you cannot join us, you may mail your form to the church office or submit it online.

Thank you for the many ways you share your gifts with Emanuel. God has made room for us; together, let's keep making the table longer.

Peace to you and yours, *Pastor Joanna*

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: krsch2@comcast.net

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

Stewardship Monthly Moment

Stewardship isn't just something we talk about in the fall, it's a year-round practice of discipleship! This monthly reflection, written by members of Emanuel's Stewardship Committee, invites us to connect generosity, gratitude, and faith with the rhythms of our everyday lives and seasons.



Invitation & Response

We have spent the year reflecting on stewardship as a way of living our faith: through generosity, gratitude, consistency, rest, and care for one another. Now, as we enter our stewardship season, we are invited to respond.

Building a longer table is something we do together. Each of us brings different gifts, circumstances, and resources, but together those gifts make Emanuel a place where more people can worship, belong, grow, serve, and experience God's love. What we give is not simply about meeting a budget; it is about making room for the ministry God is doing among us.

On October 18, we will celebrate Commitment Sunday and bring our Statements of Intent. This is an opportunity to prayerfully consider how our household can respond to God's generosity through an increased gift to Emanuel. A Statement of Intent is more than a financial commitment; it is a sign of hope for the ministry we share and the people we are called to welcome, serve, and love.

This month, consider: *What am I grateful for at Emanuel? What gives me hope about our future? How is God inviting me to respond?*

Join us at the Fair!

Curious about all the ways people serve and connect at Emanuel? Interested in sharing your gifts with the community? Looking to learn what exactly each committee and team does?

Join us at the **Fall Ministry Fair on Sunday, October 4, after worship in Luther Hall!**

Organized by Emanuel's Stewardship Committee, this event is an opportunity to explore the many ministries, committees, groups, and worship leadership roles that help bring Emanuel's mission to life. Representatives from active Emanuel committees are invited to put together a table to share who they are, what they do, and how others can get involved! There is a place for everyone at Emanuel—we hope to see you at the Fair!

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/1YKFVJbX8HdJsFGkRaQfvndhTMmffSyvDNqYHcs3sCAE/edit?usp=sharing>

- ◆ Call or email Anne in the Church Office: 860-643-1193 or ahleinrich@emanuelmanchester.org



The 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_xUewyRK4VnsT1elyJR9GKL4/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

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 October: Structural Preservation

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.

October Family Ministry Events

Saturday, October 3rd from 1:00pm –3:00pm: Outdoor Fellowship at Eric Haaga's Home (6 Lakeview Dr., Vernon, CT)

Saturday, October 10th from 1:00pm –3:00pm: Hike at Talcott Mountain State Park - Heublein Tower in (Simsbury, CT)

If you would like to attend Outdoor Fellowship at Eric Haaga's Home, please contact Kathy Rusch: krsch2@comcast.net. If you would like to attend the Hike at Talcott Mountain State Park, please contact Katie Kurlak: familyministry@emanuelmanchester.org

Pop-Up Shop Donations

We are collecting donations of gently used children's clothing for families from Highland Park School in Manchester. We ask that the donations are clean and in good condition.

Items needed:

- ❖ infant clothing (all kinds, for fall and winter)
- ❖ toddler/preschool clothing (all kinds, for fall and winter)
- ❖ children's clothing for children up to 10 years old (all kinds, for fall and winter)

For the 8-10-year-olds, adult-sized t-shirts, sweatpants and pajama pants would be useful.

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity!

If you have questions, please call Diane Gawlinski: 860-643-6532 or 860-916-8092.

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



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 aheinrich@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!

Thursday Morning Bible Study meets every week at 10 AM in the library.

All are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Joanna: pastorjoanna@emanuelmanchester.org

Ruth Circle Gathering/Program

Tuesday, October 6th at 7 PM in Luther Hall

The congregation is invited to attend.

Donna Connolly, Emanuel's Parish Nurse, will present the following: Alzheimer's Disease and dementia. *(This presentation was rescheduled from earlier this year due to weather).* Information that will be covered includes the various types of dementia, along with what is going on in the body and brain of those afflicted. We'll talk about the stages, the care and support of individuals and families going through this progressive illness, current research and treatment. Over 7 million Americans are afflicted with Alzheimer's and it's something we don't talk about much so hopefully the information will offer some preventative and supportive guidance.

FME Chamber Music Concert Series: Trio Azura **Saturday, October 10, 2026 at 7 PM**

Trio Azura is rapidly emerging as one of today's most promising young ensembles, with brilliant performances noted for "intelligence and imagination". In 2024, they won four prizes at the esteemed Fischhoff National Music Competition, and they have also won competitions in New York and China. Recent engagements have taken them to Australia, Italy, the UAE, and Belgium, as well as across the US.



**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.



The Hem Hangout will meet in Luther Hall on Wednesday, 10/7 at **7 PM**. Please note the later start time for the October meeting. Questions? Contact: jagianinio@gmail.com.

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> <i>Eloise Zofia Stoneman Baptism During Worship</i> <i>Stewardship Temple Talk - Ben Hogue</i> 10:00am Emanuel Sunday School - Sunday School Room 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary 1:30pm Worship Service at Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor	28 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	29 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED	30 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter mailing 10:00am FME Board Meeting - LH 7:00pm Bible Study led by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) - LH	1 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	2 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	3 9:00am Grow With Me Music - CR 1:00pm Family Ministry: Outdoor Fellowship at Eric Haaga's Home (6 Lakeview Drive Vernon, CT)
4 <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> <i>Ministry Fair following worship in Luther Hall</i> <i>Stewardship Temple Talk - Ligi Milord</i> 10:00am Emanuel Sunday School - Sunday School Room 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Ministry Fair and Coffee Hour - LH 12:00pm Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) Worship Service - Community Room 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary	5 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	6 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 7:00pm Ruth Circle Gathering - Program: Dementia by Donna Connolly, Parish Nurse (Congregation is invited) - LH	7 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 7:00pm Bible Study led by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) - CR 7:00pm The Hem Hangout - LH	8 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	9 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	10 9:00am Grow With Me Music - CR 11:00am Christ Church Pastor's Anniversary Brunch - Luther Hall 1:00pm Family Ministry: Hike at Talcott Mountain State Park - Heublein Tower in Simsbury, CT 7:00pm FME Chamber Music Concert Series
11 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> <i>Stewardship Temple Talk - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH 1:30pm Worship Service at Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor 5:00pm Christ Church Pastor's Anniversary Service - Sanctuary	12 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	13 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom	14 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering - LH 7:00pm Bible Study led by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) - LH	15 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED Visitor newsletter deadline 10:00am Bible Study - Library 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	16 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 5:00pm Braman Family Gathering - LH	17 9:00am Grow With Me Music - CR 1:00pm Hernandez Family Gathering - LH 7:00pm Hartford Athletic Soccer Match Outing at Trinity Health Stadium (250 Huyshope Ave, Hartford, CT 06106)
18 <i>Assisting Minister - Ray Purtell</i> STEWARDSHIP/COMMITMENT SUNDAY 10:00am Emanuel Sunday School - Sunday School Room 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - 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 7:00pm Bible Study led by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) - LH	22 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	23 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	24 9:00am Grow With Me Music - CR
25 <i>Assisting Minister - Ben Hogue</i> CONFIRMATION SUNDAY REFORMATION SUNDAY STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION SUNDAY 10:00am Emanuel Sunday School - Sunday School Room 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Stewardship Celebratory Coffee Hour - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary 4:30pm Chamovitch Piano Recital - SA	26 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	27 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED	28 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 7:00pm Bible Study led by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) - LH	29 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 1:00pm MARCH, INC. Halloween Dance - LH 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	30 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter mailing	31 9:00am Grow With Me Music - CR

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.

FALL SCHEDULE

GATHER
connecticut

THURS.
SEPTEMBER
24

LAST THURSDAY: 7PM
@ PARKVILLE MARKET
food and fellowship the last Thursday of the month

SUN.
OCTOBER
11

APPLE PICKING: 12:30PM
@ LYMAN ORCHARDS
with LuMin at Yale and Bethesda Lutheran Church

THURS.
OCTOBER
29



LAST THURSDAY: 7PM
@ PARKVILLE MARKET
food and fellowship the last Thursday of the month
with Bishop Pipho!

SAT.
DECEMBER
5

FOOD PACKAGING: 9-11:30AM
@MIDWEST FOOD BANK
*volunteer to pack and sort food donations
join us for brunch after!*



RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/A6Dh5mv3RCQsuRiN8>





2027 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING

**IMAGINE
more**

Minneapolis, MN

MYLE and the tAble: June 26-28, 2027

Main Event: June 28 - July 2, 2027





Youth Gathering Info Session

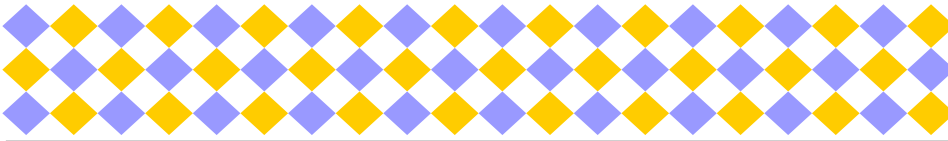
Hartford Conference of the NE Synod

Sunday, October 11th
12 noon
at Emanuel Lutheran, Hartford

Caring

October Birthdays (Emanuel Members 75+ yrs.)

Valerie Norris	10/3	Vyrjil Buus	10/13
June Roncarti	10/4	Jennie Macione	10/18
Marilyn Eastwood	10/11	Linda Verbarg	10/19
Lynda Brown	10/12	Carol Pender	10/23



Thank you for helping me go to Calumet! I had so much fun during the two weeks. I had so much fun making new friends, doing activities and swimming.
—Kelsey Kamp

Thank you so much for the campership for Calumet! I had so much fun during the two weeks I spent there and made so many memories meeting new people, doing fun activities and enjoying myself.
—Carolyn Kamp

*Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for the camper scholarship you gave me for Camp Calumet. I had nice adventures. I had tons of fun, and I met new friends, and the food was really good. I hope I can come back next year. Thank you again.*
Sincerely, Sammy Garmendia

*Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church,
Thank you for the contribution from the Campership Fund that helped pay for my time at Calumet this year. I had a lot of fun being with friends. I got to try a lot of new things, like sailing and going on a yellow's hiking day trip. I also got to do things I enjoy like playing my guitar at music camp. I look forward to doing it again next year. Thank you!*
—Noah Berneski

*Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members,
Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$6,160.19 to MACC Charities. Your support helps unite the community and bridge some of the social, and economic challenges we face today. Generous giving helps MACC respond quickly and effectively to emergencies in our community; and certainly brings rest and rejuvenation to the people who receive help with their basic emergency needs.*

*Many blessings,
Shannon Baldassario—CEO*

Copies of the "Christ In Our Home" devotionals for October - December 2026 are available to pick up in the narthex or on the bookcase by the ramp to the sanctuary. Large print copies are available.

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



Emanuel Staff

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Berk and Lisa Little
Worship Support Specialists





POWER SUMMIT 2026

Thursday, October 15

6:30-8:30 pm (doors open at 5:30)

Immanuel Congregational Church

10 Woodland St. Hartford, CT

Join 700+ leaders from 50+ GHIAA member institutions to uplift our priority issues, launch new action campaigns, and seek commitments from elected officials in our districts

Visit cljct.org/power-summit for more info

If you would like to attend the Power Summit 2026, please RSVP to mncnuevacreation@gmail.com. The Power Summit is a great way to learn more about GHIAA's work!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED