



Emanuel Lutheran Church

A member of the New England Synod of the ELCA
(a "Reconciling In Christ" Congregation)



60 Church Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 643-1193



www.emanuelmanchester.org

This worship service is broadcast live on Zoom, recorded and the full worship service is uploaded to YouTube. In alignment with our safe church policy and with recommendation from the ELCA, anytime children are present in front of the camera, the recording device will blur faces. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Joanna.

RIC Sunday

10:00 AM

June 7, 2026

CELEBRATING LGBTQ+ ART

Music for, about, and
by LGBTQ+
Individuals

**Join us for an evening of pride,
music, and togetherness!**

In honor of pride month, Emanuel Lutheran Church is hosting an evening of celebration for LGBTQ+ history, joy, and love through music.

- Live performances by local LGBTQ+ artists
- Eclectic selection of music across styles and time periods
- Reception after performance in Luther Hall to foster conversation and connection

6 PM – 8 PM
Thursday, June 11

**Emanuel Lutheran
Church, Manchester CT**

Free Admission

*Please rise, in body or in spirit, at the points indicated by *.*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the fountain of living water,
the light that no gloom can overcome,
the embrace that calls us beloved.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with mercy and forgiveness,
named as God's children,
and set free to walk in the glory of Christ.
Through these waters, God gathers a community ~
queer and straight, trans and cisgender, intersex, questioning, and asexual,
of every race and culture,
so that no one must walk alone,
but together we live in God's love.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
We give you thanks, O God,
for the waters of creation:
for rivers and rain, oceans and springs.
We give you thanks for the waters that sustain our community.
We give you thanks for the waters of liberation:
the Red Sea, the Jordan,
the baptism of Jesus in the river.
We give you thanks for the waters that claim us as your children
and make us one body in Christ.
Shine in us with the light of Christ,
that we may see your face in one another,
resist every form of hatred and oppression,
and rejoice in the freedom of your love.
To you be given honor and praise,
with the Spirit who broods over the waters,
today and forever.

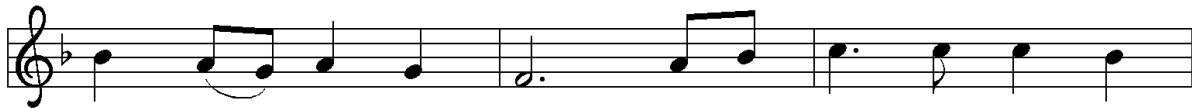
All: Amen.



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Refrain
 Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
 Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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***Greeting**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

Pastor: God of Beauty, you gather your beloved children into your care, each one a unique image of you. You claim us as your own and call us to follow in the ways of mercy, justice, and joy. Help us move on from lament to build a foundation out of your loving kindness and justice. Strengthen our changing hearts and minds to continue the work of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

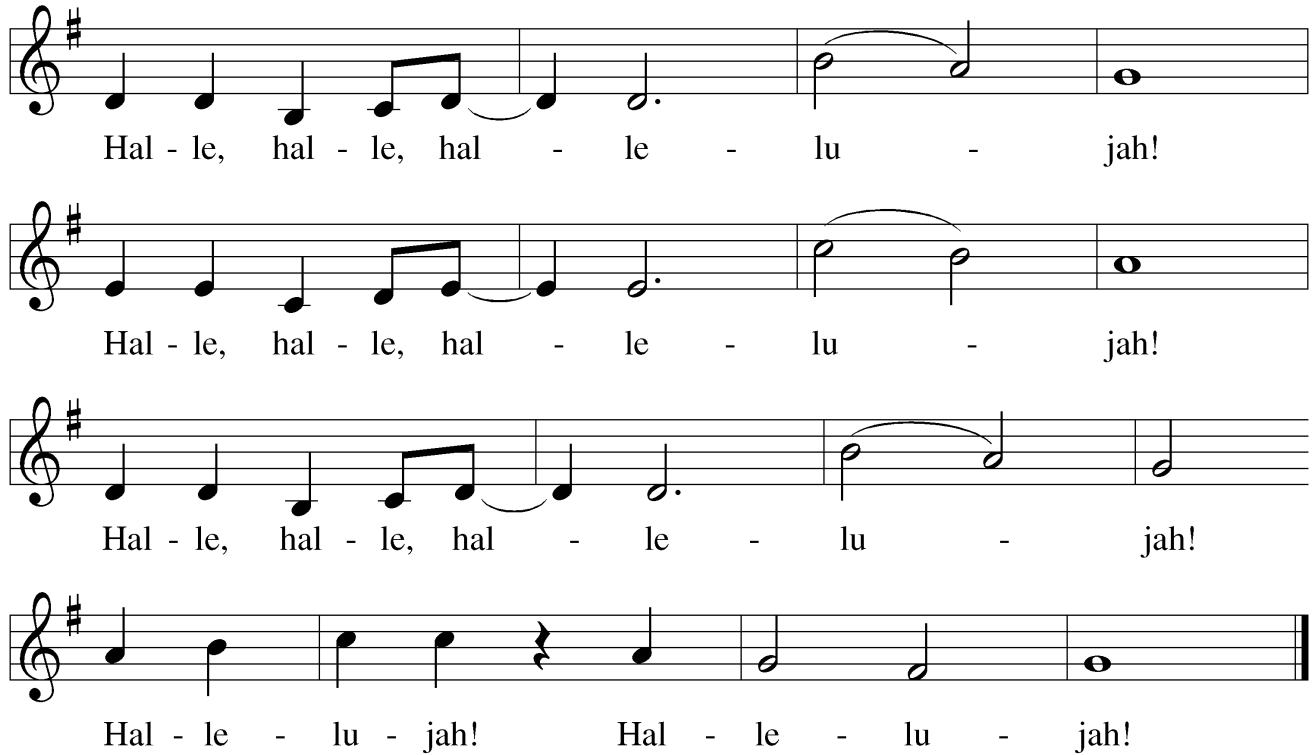
All: Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 16:1-16

Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to have children. Since she owned an enslaved Egyptian woman named Hagar, Sarai said to Abram, "God has kept me from giving birth, so go to my slave. Maybe she will provide me with children." Abram did just as Sarai said. After Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram's wife Sarai took her enslaved Egyptian woman named Hagar and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when she realized that she was pregnant, she no longer respected her mistress. Sarai said to Abram, "This harassment is your fault. I allowed you to sleep with my servant, but when she realized she was pregnant, I lost her respect. Let the Lord decide who is right, you or me." Abram said to Sarai, "Since she's your slave, do whatever you wish to her." So Sarai treated her harshly, and she ran away from Sarai. God found Hagar at a spring in the desert, the spring on the road to Shur, and said, "Hagar! Sarai's slave! Where did you come from and where are you going?" She said, "From Sarai my mistress. I'm running away." God said to her, "Go back to your mistress. Put up with her harsh treatment of you." God also said to her, "I will give you many children, so many they can't be counted!" God said to her, "You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You will name him Ishmael because the Lord has heard about your harsh treatment. He will be a wild mule of a man; he will fight everyone, and they will fight him. He will live at odds with all his relatives." Hagar named the God who spoke to her, El Roi because she said, "Can I still see after they saw me?" Therefore, that well is called Beer-lahai-roi; it's the well between Kadesh and Bered. Hagar gave birth to a son for Abram, and Abram named him Ishmael.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**



Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

***Gospel Reading: Matthew 12:1-14**

Pastor: The Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Christ!

At that time Jesus went through the wheat fields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry so they were picking heads of wheat and eating them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are breaking the Sabbath law." But he said to them, "Haven't you read what David did when he and those with him were hungry? He went into God's house and broke the law by eating the bread of the presence, which only the priests were allowed to eat. Or haven't you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple treat the Sabbath as any other day and are still innocent? But I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. If you had known what this means, I want mercy and not sacrifice, you wouldn't have condemned the innocent. The Human One is Lord of the Sabbath." Jesus left that place and went into their synagogue. A man with a withered hand was there. Wanting to bring charges against Jesus, they asked, "Does the Law allow a person to heal on the Sabbath?" Jesus replied, "Who among you has a sheep that falls into a pit on the Sabbath and will not take hold of it and pull it out? How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! So the Law allows a person to do what is good on the Sabbath." Then Jesus said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he did and it was made healthy, just like the other one. The Pharisees went out and met in order to find a way to destroy Jesus.

Pastor: The Gospel of our faith.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

*Hymn of the Day

What Is This Place

ELW 524



1 What is this place where we are meet - ing? On - ly a house, the
 2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in
 3 And we ac - cept bread at this ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a



earth its floor. Walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,
 us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and won - ders
 liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,



win-dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be-comes a bod - y that lives
 sent from the past are all we need. We in this place re - mem-ber and speak
 we are each oth-er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re - ceive



when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
 a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem-ing word.
 what we need to in - crease: our jus - tice and God's peace.

Text: Huub Oosterhuis, b. 1933; tr. David Smith, b. 1933

Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

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***Apostles' Creed**

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

AM: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

To the words: "God of Grace", the congregation responds: "hear our prayer."

AM: Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

All: Amen.

***Sharing of the Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.



1 *Que_es-ta_i - gle - sia se - a_un ár - bol en el*
 1 May this church be like a tree, be - hind your
 2 May this church be like a tree there in the
 3 May this church be like a tree, O God, that



fon - do de tu ca - sa, que_ha - ya fies - ta, y_a - le -
 house, there in your gar - den, meet - ing - place for joy, and
 street or in the pla - za, for the birds a nest - ing -
 thrives where you have plant - ed; may it stand to show the



grí - a y_o - ra - ción ba - jo sus ra - mas.
 feast, and sim - ple prayer be - neath its branch - es.
 branch, for pass - ers - by a wel - come shel - ter.
 way, your way of lov - ing and self - giv - ing,



Con ra - í - ces bien pro - fun - das y sus bra - zos
 With its roots in earth so fer - tile, and its arms raised
 May it stand as if it's watch - ing, near my house, just
 of - f'ring shade, and fruit for shar - ing, giv - ing up its



ha - cia_el cie - lo, que_es - ta_i - gle - sia sea fe -
 high to heav - en, may this church bear fruits of
 round the cor - ner, wait - ing for this wea - ry
 wood for burn - ing. May this liv - ing church that



cun - da dan - do fru - tos de con - sue - lo.
 jus - tice, acts of lov - ing and com - pas - sion.
 pil - grim with its arms wide to em - brace me.
 names you be a tree of life e - ter - nal.

Refrain / Estribillo



Ár - bol plan - ta - do jun - to_a las a - guas
 Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



de vi - da_e - ter - na de nues - tro Dios.
 run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.



Ár - bol plan - ta - do jun - to_a las a - guas
 Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



de vi - da_e - ter - na de nues - tro Dios.
 run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.

- 2 *Que esta iglesia también sea como un árbol de la plaza,
 nido de pájaros libres y refugio del que pasa;
 y que sea como el árbol de la esquina de mi casa,
 que me ve llegar de lejos e imagino que me abraza. Estribillo*
- 3 *Que esta iglesia sea un árbol, oh buen Dios, en donde quieras,
 pero siempre apuntalado por tu amor y a tu manera.
 Para dar frutos y sombra o entregar nuestra madera,
 que esta iglesia que te nombra árbol de la vida sea. Estribillo*

Text: Pablo D. Sosa, 1933–2020; tr. Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951
 Music: QUE ESTA IGLESIA SEA UN ÁRBOL, Pablo D. Sosa
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*Offertory Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and your creation provides us with an abundance of what we need. May our gifts of all kinds and our labor contribute to the building of a blessed community which welcomes all people, that sees all people, and that works for justice for all people.

All: Amen.

*Holy Communion

Pastor: The Lord be with you. All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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*The Words of Institution

(not printed)

*The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Holy Communion

Pastor: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

All: **Amen.**

*All are welcome to receive communion—if this is your first time receiving or your 500th time receiving. In this meal, Jesus meets us in and through the bread and wine. Communion will be offered in a continuous style in front of the altar as well as at the altar rail. We'll commune the right side first, moving to the left side, starting with the front pews and moving towards the back. If you would like to receive communion at the altar rail, do so by using the center steps. You are welcome to stand or kneel at the altar rail. Please wait until the group is blessed and dismissed before going back to your seat by **using the side steps that lead to the side aisles**. If you are receiving in front of the altar, when you come forward, you will receive a wafer. We have a gluten free option available. There will be a tray of cups of red wine and of white grape juice. After you drink the wine/juice, please dispose of your cup in the receptacles on the sides of the sanctuary. If you are unable to come forward, we are happy to bring communion to you. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.*

Communion Hymns

Jesus, Lamb of God

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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Spirit of Gentleness

ELW 396

Refrain



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

Refrain

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940
Music: SPIRIT, James K. Manley
Text and music © 1978 James K. Manley, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



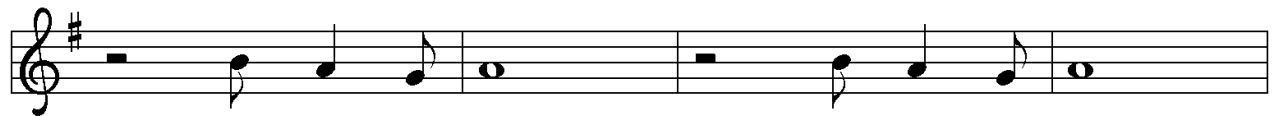
One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1	Gen - tile	or	Jew,	ser - vant	or	free,
2	Man - y	the	gifts,	man - y	the	works,
3	Grain for	the	fields,	scat - tered	and	grown,



wom - an	or	man,	no	more.
one	in	the	of	all.
gath - ered	to	one	for	all.

Refrain

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

***Post Communion Prayer**

AM: God of all queerness, you gathered us into one through this holy meal. Grant that we might go out into the world filled with your grace and love so that we yourself might serve others. In your many names we pray, Amen.

All: Amen.

***Blessing**

Pastor: May the Creator of all embolden us to be fiercely and authentically human. May the Holy Protector guide us as we continue to discover the fullness of who we are. And may the Spirit of Truth and Wisdom guide us to seek justice for all.

All: Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

ELW 763



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

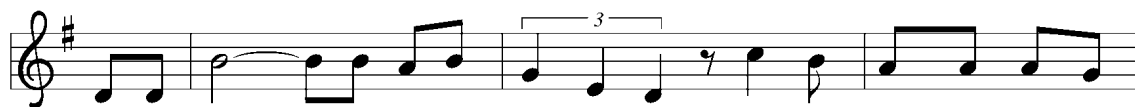
Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

***Dismissal**

AM: Go forth with courage, loving God and serving your neighbors.

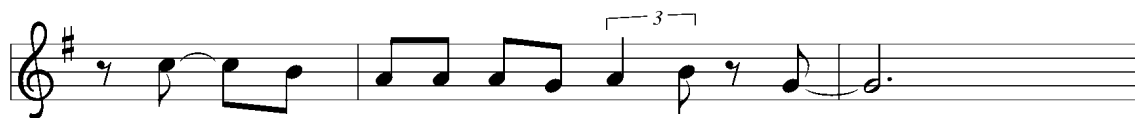
All: **Thanks be to God!**



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

- We are dancing ...
- We are praying ...
- We are singing ...

If you would like Individual Healing Prayer, please approach the altar rail or the side pew by the ramp following the postlude.

Please join us after worship for Coffee Hour downstairs in Luther Hall.

The “little white church” is out in the Narthex this morning to collect monetary donations for the Samaritan Fund.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Assisting Minister: Kim Boerner-Mercier

Ushers: Pat Nelson, Richard Marsh, Jake Auger, *volunteer needed*

Communion Assistants: *two volunteers needed*

Lector: Valerie Norris

Altar Guild: Elsa Robinson, Judy Polito, Marianne Wilcox

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Hearing Assistance devices are available in the lobby. Many people who have difficulty hearing, and even people attending worship who happen to sit in an audio “dead spot” in the sanctuary could benefit from using a Hearing Assistance device during the service. If you would like to give one a try, please ask an usher for assistance.

QR Code

There is a QR code on 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 people the option to easily donate online at any time.

Emanuel’s family room space is available for Sunday morning guests!

The family room is located on the lower level of the building directly across from the Sunday School room. For whatever reason, if you and your child/children need a quiet place to retreat to during worship, the family room is equipped with toys for the children and comfortable furniture for the adults. Worship can be streamed live, on Zoom through the TV in the family room.

If you are visiting with us this morning, we would love for you to fill out a Welcome Card!

Cards are located on the table in the narthex. If you need assistance, an usher can direct you. You can share your name, phone number and email with us as well as let us know if you have a prayer request that you would like printed on our prayer list, or if you would like to be added to our email communications list to receive our monthly newsletter and Friday Weekly Update emails. Cards can be left in the basket located next to the cards, given to an usher, or placed in the offering plate.

Special Offering Envelopes

The Special Offering envelope for June is **NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING**. If you would like to give to any of the special offerings in 2026, you can drop your check in the offering plate (or mail your check to the church office), made out the Emanuel Lutheran Church with the specific special offering listed on the memo line.

Emanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH Staff

Church Office: 860-643-1193

Joanna Hertzog Betkoski, Pastor

Jeff Sirois, Director of Music

Anne Heinrich, Office Administrator

Katie Kurlak, Director of Family Ministries

Donna Connolly, Parish Nurse

Kathy Hatch, Property Supervisor

Barton Sattler, Treasurer

Gail McGrath and Kathy Rusch, Co-Financial Secretaries

Berk and Lisa Little, Worship Support Specialists

Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering—Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 12 noon in Luther Hall

All knitters and crocheters are invited to join us for a time of knitting and fellowship.

A light lunch will be served.

If you would like to learn how to knit a prayer shawl, you are welcome to join us for instruction on how to make one on your own!

If you have any questions, please contact Doris Johnson 860-871-1498 or Norma Wirta 860-875-5163.

Congregational Getaway Weekend at Camp Calumet in NH
August 21- 23, 2026



We're having an intergenerational getaway weekend at Camp Calumet on Friday, August 21 – Sunday, 23—our second one! The weekend will begin with Holden Evening prayer at 7 PM on Friday (it's ok if you'll be late!) and end with lunch on Sunday. We will have time to rest, explore the local area, swim, boat, worship and learn together. There will be time for adults to connect with one another and their faith and time for kids to hear the stories of God and God's people. Just ask anyone who went last year—it's fun!

Please sign up in the narthex if you're interested in going, fill out a registration form and return it to Pastor Joanna along with a \$100 deposit. A check can be made out to *Emanuel Lutheran Church* with "Calumet Retreat" on the memo line or you may pay online: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4JY/home>.

The Endowment Committee is accepting applications for distributions from Emanuel's four endowment funds: Christian Education, Extended Ministries, Music Endowment, and Structural Preservation.

Interested applicants should follow guidelines found on page 2 of the application. Please also read page 2 of the application to ensure that you are requesting monies from the proper endowment fund. **Applications should be typed and should be submitted electronically via email to aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org no later than Friday, June 12, 2026.** *The online application is available as a fillable PDF on the weekly update or in the email sent to Emanuel members on Wednesday, 5/13.* If you are unable to fill out the application online and submit it electronically, printed copies of the application are available in the narthex and the church office. Handwritten applications can be given to Anne in the church office also by Friday, June 12th.

Please note: Members of Emanuel should consider internal needs for Christian Education, Music, and Structural Preservation; members are welcome to share the Extended Ministries opportunity with external non-profits. Any specific questions regarding the endowment funds can be directed to Patrick Byrne: pbyrne810@gmail.com

Queer & Christian

Asylum Hill Congregational Church, 814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
Wednesday, June 17, 2026 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Come hear Rev. Brandan Robertson, author, activist, and public theologian known for his inclusive spiritual content on social media. He serves as pastor of Sunnyside Reformed Church in NYC. A leading voice for LGBTQ+ inclusion in faith communities, he's been featured by TIME, CNN, and Out Magazine's OUT100.



Rev. Brandan Robertson is an acclaimed author, activist, and public theologian working at the intersection of spirituality, sexuality, and social renewal. He serves as Pastor of Sunnyside Reformed Church in New York City and Theologian-in-Residence at Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ in Miami, Florida. An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, he is also the Founder and Executive Director of DevOUT, a nonprofit dedicated to countering far-right religious narratives and amplifying inclusive theological voices through media and education.

Known widely as the "TikTok Pastor," Robertson's digital ministry reaches nearly 400,000 followers and millions of viewers worldwide. He has authored or contributed to more than twenty books on faith and justice, including True Inclusion: Creating Communities of Radical Embrace, an INDIES Book of the Year Award finalist. His work has been featured by TIME Magazine, NBC, CNN, and The Washington Post, and he has spoken at venues such as the White House, Oxford University, and the Parliament of the World's Religions.

A passionate advocate for LGBTQ+ equality, Robertson was named to Rolling Stone's "Hot List" and Out Magazine's 2025 OUT100. He lives in New York City and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies at Drew University.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, June 7, 2026

Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier

10:00am –11:00am Emanuel Worship Service – Sanctuary

11:00am –12:00pm Emanuel Coffee Hour – LH

12:00pm –1:00pm Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) Worship Service - Community Room

1:30pm –4:00pm Christ Church Worship Service – Sanctuary

1:30pm –2:30pm Worship Service at Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor

4:00pm –6:00pm Celebration Liturgy of Concordia's 132 Years of Ministry at Concordia Lutheran Church – 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester
(Reception in Kaiser Hall will follow worship)

Monday, June 8, 2026

CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM

10:00am –12:30pm Music From the Heart Band rehearsal – MR

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED

6:00pm –8:00pm LGBTQ+ Concert rehearsal – Sanctuary

7:00pm –8:00pm Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM

12:00pm –2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering - LH

Thursday, June 11, 2026

CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED

10:00am –11:00am Bible Study - Library

6:00pm –8:00pm Celebrating LGBTQ+ Art Concert – Sanctuary

Friday, June 12, 2026

CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM

10:00am –12:00pm ACT – LH

Saturday, June 13, 2026

9:00am –10:45am Grow With Me Music - Community Room

Sunday, June 14, 2026

Assisting Minister - Adela Garmendia

10:00am –11:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary

11:00am –12:00pm Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH

11:30am –1:00pm Finance Committee meeting - Community Room

1:30pm –4:00pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary