



60 Church Street
Manchester, CT 06040

(860) 643-1193

website: www.emanuelmanchester.org

September 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

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." — 1 Corinthians 12:12

At Emanuel, we know that church is more than a building, a Sunday service, or a name—it's a living, breathing community. As Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians, the Church is one body made up of many members. Each person brings something unique, and together we reflect the love and mission of Christ.

This summer, council members took the opportunity to ask a simple question that gets at the heart of who we are: **"What makes Emanuel unique?"**

Five members from different walks of life were asked to share their perspective. Their answers revealed a vibrant, multi-faceted church family grounded in love, openness, and hope for the future. Here are just some of the responses:

- ♦ This congregation was inclusive in the past and continues to be in the present—way back when this Swedish church was welcoming to Norwegians.
- ♦ Emanuel is welcoming, flexible, and adaptable—willing to make changes when needed.
- ♦ We are a generous community that looks beyond ourselves to support ministry partners.
- ♦ It's not just about fitting in; it's about being truly integrated into this community.
- ♦ Our church is family-oriented, with many young families who feel at home here.
- ♦ There's just a good vibe here.
- ♦ I like coffee hour and playing with my church friends.
- ♦ We're active and growing—new members are always finding their place here.
- ♦ Emanuel is the kind of community that manages—through all its parts—to be what people are really seeking.
- ♦ Music matters here. Everyone is welcome to participate and share their gift of music.
- ♦ It's fun to see a new generation excited about church.
- ♦ Not everyone is my Dad's age!
- ♦ We are multi-generational, and our connections bridge across ages and experiences.

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From the Pastor

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

Flowers, ECHN Programs, 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 aheinrich@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

From the Pastor

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Taken together, these comments paint a picture of a congregation that is faithful and forward-looking, rooted in tradition but responsive to the present moment. Emanuel isn't perfect, but it is real—and in its realness, it reflects the Body of Christ. Every person brings something valuable. Every story, every voice, every act of kindness contributes to the whole.

As we move into the new season ahead, may we continue to cherish what makes Emanuel unique—and may we invite others to find their place here too.

There is a bulletin board outside of the Parish Nurse's Office (on the main floor down the hall from the Church Office). ECHN (Eastern Connecticut Health Network) hosts Community Health Education Programs. Some programs are offered in-person and others are offered virtually. Programs for September and October are now posted on the bulletin board.

You may visit echn.org/events to view the most up to date class listings and to register online.

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: aheinrich@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 aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org



Thanks to Emanuel members, Helen Johnson and Gail McGrath for each securing a Thrivent Action Team grant that will help provide the funding for the Kona Ice truck and pizza lunch on Rally Day!

Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 21. Children will meet teachers at the beginning of worship—after the announcements—and will be brought back to worship before communion. You can register your child for Sunday School on Rally Day, Sunday, September 14 or email Katie Kurlak: familyministry@emanuelmanchester.org. **ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14, ALL PARENTS are invited and encouraged to attend a brief meeting to learn about the Sunday School program for 2025-26.** Please plan to join us in the Sunday School Room 10 minutes after the worship service ends for the meeting. **If you are unable to attend, please let Katie know ahead of time at** (familyministry@emanuelmanchester.org) so she can touch base with you before the Sunday School year begins.

 **Emanuel Choirs will begin their regular rehearsals on Thursday, September 11.** We offer two different choirs—New Day Singers and Anthem Choir. If you would like to learn more about the choirs, (rehearsal times, difference between the two, etc.) please email Jeff at jsirois@emanuelmanchester.org.

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. There are some blank rocks outside by Emanuel's flag pole that you can pick up, bring home and paint. 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!

EMANUEL LUTHERAN RALLY DAY SUN. SEPT. 14 AT 10AM

- WEAR A COSTUME TO WORSHIP
- BIBLES FOR 3 YEAR OLDS AND 3RD GRADERS
- KONA ICE TRUCK AND PIZZA FOR LUNCH
- PING PONG TOURNAMENT



Check out this exciting new event, the **Calumet Obstacle & Trail Challenge**, a 5K trail run/walk with the challenge of a dozen obstacles along the way. From Jackman Ridge to the Outdoor Chapel (ODC) to Ossipee Lake, our course will have you traversing the entire Calumet property. This fundraising event is a fun way to challenge yourself while supporting the programs we offer year round at Calumet.

5K + 12 obstacles + Calumet's beautiful property = Fun for everyone!
(Modifications available, walk run or sing your way through each challenge)

Emanuel member, Sara J. Anderson is participating in the Challenge!

If you would like to sponsor her, please follow these instructions.



How to Sign Up

1. Go to www.Calumet.org or click the link in our bio to visit the Obstacle Course page.
2. Click "Register Now."
3. On the next page, select "Register/Login."
4. Fill out the form and complete your registration!

How to Sponsor a Participant

1. Go to www.Calumet.org or click the link in our bio to visit the Obstacle Course page.
2. Select "Learn More" under the section about sponsoring a participant.
3. Choose your participant and make your donation!

Event Details:

- Registration Fee: \$100
- Event Date: Friday, September 12, 2025
- Start time: 10am EDT
- Location: Camp Calumet - 1090 Ossipee Lake Road, Freedom, NH

Join us after the challenge for a complimentary BBQ outside the Johnson Dining Hall

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 2025 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!

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

Everyone is welcome! Contact Pastor Joanna with questions or for more information.

Women's Breakfast

**Wednesday, September 17 at 9 AM
Cosmic Omelet, 485 Hartford Road,
Manchester**



If you would like to attend, a RSVP to Lynne Gustafson: cgustafson01@snet.net is required by MONDAY, September 15th.

Ruth Circle

Tuesday, September 2 at 6 PM in Luther Hall

Join us for a Welcome Back Potluck! If you are a longtime Ruth Circle member or if you are interested in learning about Emanuel's women's group, know you are welcome to attend! We'll enjoy a potluck dinner and review the new Ruth Circle 2025-2026 Program Directory. *Hostesses are: Kim Boerner-Mercier, Helen Johnson, Valerie Norris, Barbara Stephens.* **Anyone planning to attend, please email Kim Boerner-Mercier to johnkim4@aol.com by Sunday August 31, 2025.**

Emanuel Lutheran BOOK CLUB

Sat. | Sept. 27 | 6:30PM

We'll meet in the family room

THE ROAD BACK TO YOU

An Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery

by Ian Morgan Cron and Suzanne Stabile

Please read the book before coming to the meeting.



Book Club Sign-up:

<https://forms.gle/gcouVhPXD8UEGVpE8>

or email Anne in the Church Office:

[\(aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org\)](mailto:aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org).

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 <i>Assisting Minister - Adela Garmendia</i> 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	1 OFFICE CLOSED - Labor Day 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	2 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 6:00pm Ruth Circle Gathering: "Potluck and Directory Review" - LH	3 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	4 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library	5 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	6 2:00pm Gather CT: Cider Donut Harvest Music Festival at Lyman Orchards, 32 Reeds Gap Road, Middlefield, CT
7 <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	8 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting - LH	9 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom	10 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	11 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	12 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	13 11:00am Elsie Elizabeth Calve Graveside Visitation - East Cemetery, Manchester 12:00pm Memorial Service for Elsie Elizabeth Calve
14 <i>Assisting Minister - Ray Purtell</i> RALLY DAY 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:30am Rally Day Pizza Lunch and Kona Ice Truck - Luther Hall 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Worship Service at Evergreen Crossings in South Windsor	15 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter deadline 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR 6:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting - Zoom	16 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Council Meeting - LH	17 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 9:00am Women's Breakfast - Cosmic Omelet, 485 Hartford Road, Manchester	18 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	19 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	20 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room
21 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> <i>Winslow Grace Monda Hogue Baptism During Worship</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	22 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	23 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 7:00pm Emanuel Housing Corp. Meeting - LH	24 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	25 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	26 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter mailing 8:30am Health Collective - LH/MR	27 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room 6:30pm Book Club: The Road Back To You (by Ian Morgan Cron and Suzanne Stabile) - Family Room
28 <i>Assisting Minister - Campfield Heinrich</i> 10:00am Sunday School - Youth Room 10:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary 11:30am Oktoberfest at Concordia Lutheran Church - 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester (Reservations are required by 9/12/25) 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary	29 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	30 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED	1 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	2 CHURCH OFFICE - CLOSED 6:00pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	3 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	4 9:00am Grow With Me Music - Community Room 10:00am Christ Church Pastor's Anniversary Tea Party - LH 7:00pm FME Chamber Music Concert Series - Elqui Trio

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.

Concordia Lutheran Church in Manchester cordially invites the congregation of Emanuel to



M e n u

German Sausages
(Weisswurst and Bauernwurst)
German Potato Salad
Sauerkraut
Green Beans and Mushrooms
Applesauce
Salad
Rolls and Butter
Dessert Table
Coffee/Tea

The cost of the dinner is \$15.00 per person, children under 12 are free.

Name (s): _____

of People Attending _____ Payment Amount: \$ _____

I(we) can bring: Dessert _____

Please include your payment with this reservation form and submit it to the Emanuel Church Office by **Friday, September 12, 2025.**

Please make your check out to **Concordia Lutheran Church** with *Oktoberfest* on the memo line. Cash is also accepted.

If you are planning to attend and you haven't submitted a reservation form or payment yet, please email Anne in the Church Office (ahleinrich2@emanuelmanchester.org) by Monday, September 1, 2025 with the names and number of people attending from your family. The German butcher making the sausages would like an initial headcount before the reservation deadline of 9/12/25.

Caring

September Birthdays (Emanuel Members 75+ yrs.)

Ida Anderson 9/2
Marjorie Andersen 9/3
Alfred Meier 9/6
Patricia Nelson 9/6
Nelson Robinson 9/6
John Reed 9/9
Susan Horton 9/10



Dennise Carter 9/20
Barbara Heinrich 9/20
Katherine Kalugira 9/21
Patricia Anderson 9/22
Diana McVicker 9/24
Ann Dreisbach 9/27

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the Calumet Campership. At camp I got to play guitar in music camp, cook food over a fire in open fire class, and shoot arrows in archery. I had a very fun and memorable time at Camp Calumet this year.

From, Noah Berneski

To the Emanuel Lutheran Church Congregation,

Thank you for your donation of \$531.00 to Mosaic in Connecticut in support of Partners in Possibilities. Your gift enables Mosaic to live out its mission to love and serve all of God's children, and helps bring abundance of life to those who might not otherwise experience this wonderful generosity. Joining together in service, we experience abundance of life both in our congregations and in the lives of all in Mosaic's care.

Thanks to the generosity of your Sunday School and members of the congregation, we helped one of our Manchester friends afford a week of camp! Many blessings to all of you at Emanuel. I love that you have your Sunday School invest time and energy to a mission.

*Faith, Hope, & Love Always,
Becca Piel, Pastor Twila Schock and Mosaic Team*

Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$4,006.08 to MACC Charities. Your thoughtful kindness blesses our work to help those in desperate need of compassion in their lives. 1 in 7 households in our community are food insecure, receiving services to assist their families in need. Your donation comes during a crucial time economically for our neighbors in need. Thank you for being a great partner to fight food insecurity in our neighborhoods.

*Many Blessings,
Shannon Baldassario—CEO, MACC Charities*

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 September: Parish Nurse 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. You may also give online through the secure donation page at www.emanuelmanchester.org.



Emanuel Staff

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Berk Little and Kathy Rusch
Worship Support Specialists





GATHER CONNECTICUT

Lyman Orchards

CIDER DONUT HARVEST
MUSIC FESTIVAL

Hang out with young adults at Lyman Orchards Apple Cider Donut Music Festival. Food trucks, concert, and good company!

SAT. SEPTEMBER 6 AT 2PM

Meet at the ice cream window at the Apple Barrel Patio. Bring a chair! RSVP with the QR code.



