



60 Church Street
Manchester, CT 06040

(860) 643-1193

website: www.emanuelmanchester.org

September 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

*"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you,
for the glory of God." — Romans 15:7*

One of my favorite songs is "Crowded Table" by the Highwomen. The chorus begins: I want a house with a crowded table. And a place by the fire for everyone." I love that image because a table is a place where we not only share food, but we share stories, laughter, and questions. A table is a place where people can feel that they belong.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus often found himself at tables. He was not always with the people others expected to see there. He ate with tax collectors, sinners, strangers, and people on the margins. Again and again, Jesus made room for people who might otherwise have been left out. I imagine that Jesus sat at crowded tables.

Our church community is blessed to gather around a table each week where we are fed the body and blood of Christ. It's a table where all are welcome. A table where people gather who have been at Emanuel for their whole life, and some who may be new to our community. Some may be looking for a place to belong or returning to church after many years. Others may simply be wondering whether there is a place for them.

Making room doesn't always require something dramatic. It might mean noticing someone who is standing alone after worship and introducing yourself. It might mean sitting beside someone you don't know, inviting a newcomer to coffee hour, or taking a moment to explain something that is familiar to us but new to someone else.

Hospitality is more than being friendly. It is the willingness to make space in our lives for others. And we do this because Christ has first made space for us. We come to God's table not because we have earned our place, but because we have been welcomed by God's grace.

May we be a congregation with room at the table—room for longtime members and newcomers, for those who are certain and those who are searching, for those who feel at home and those who are still finding their way.

May our welcome reflect the welcome we have received from Christ.

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: krusch2@comcast.net

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

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.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Support Emanuel

Wow! Just wow! That's my reaction to the \$6,774.00 given to Emanuel by Thrivent members who have designated Emanuel to receive their Thrivent Choice dollars this year. The funds will be used to support our ministries. A few ministries previously supported by Thrivent Choice include MACC seasonal sharing, scholarships for seminarians from Emanuel, the purchase of a defibrillator, clinical pastoral education for a seminarian, and sending our youth to Camp Calumet and the National Youth Gathering. So, a big "thank you" and a "shout out" to the Thrivent members who choose to support Emanuel in this way. There's still time to designate Thrivent Choice dollars, if you haven't already done so, but designation must be done by December 31, 2026.

Ray Purtell, Emanuel Thrivent Coordinator

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, September 27, 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/1YKFVJbX8HdJsFGkRaQfvdhTMmfSyvDNqYHcs3sCAE/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_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

Greetings! It has been a little while since I have provided a seminary update for you all, so I'm excited to share with you what I've been up to since December. In mid-January this year, following our wedding in December, my wife Noelle and I spent a week on the Gettysburg campus of United Lutheran Seminary for intensive courses. During this time, I completed my final seminary class "Experiencing and Performing the Gospel" which was a fun and fruitful experience to close out my seminary education.

Only a few days later, we moved up to Chelmsford, Massachusetts, about half an hour outside of Boston, where I have been serving my internship at Trinity Lutheran Church ever since. My time at Trinity has been a great experience thus far and I am greatly enjoying serving in parish ministry in a full-time capacity. I have received a warm welcome from the community at Trinity and have appreciated getting to know those in the congregation. During my time here, I have also started a new young adult ministry which has seen significant growth this summer. Once a month young adults get together for an activity and enjoy fellowship and conversations about life and faith.

In addition to this, my internship time has also included regular preaching, teaching, pastoral care, administrative work and countless other experiences related to full-time pastoral ministry. As we approach the fall, I'm going into my final few months of internship, which means I am currently preparing to sit for approval for ordination in a few months. Following this crucial step in the ordination process coming up later this year, I will hopefully be able to begin looking for a first call as a pastor around the new year. I am immensely grateful for the prayerful support that I have received in multiple ways from Emanuel over these past few years. It is greatly appreciated. I look forward to providing you with further updates as I wrap up the formation process for ordained ministry and look toward all God has in store for the future in preparing for my first call. The Holy Spirit is at work indeed!

*God's Peace,
Campfield Heinrich*

IT'S TIME TO ORDER MEMORIAL BRICKS FOR EMANUEL'S MEMORIAL GARDEN

If you would like to have a Memorial Brick placed in Emanuel's Memorial Garden in memory of a loved one, please submit an order form to the Church Office by **Sunday, September 13th**. Order Forms are in the Narthex, in the Church Office and as a PDF link on the Friday weekly update. We will be dedicating the memorial bricks for this year on All Saints Sunday—November 1, 2026. Please contact the church office at 860-643-1193 or email Anne (aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org), if you have any questions.

Emanuel's Pop-Up Shop

Emanuel has taken on a new ministry. Concordia Lutheran Church had a partnership with Highland Park School in Manchester to provide clothing for free to families in need. We are continuing this mission at Emanuel. To do this, we need help from the congregation.

We are collecting donations of **used children's clothing** that we can offer to designated families from Highland Park School.

We need infant clothing, up through clothing for 9–10-year-old children. For the older children, adult sized tee shirts, sweats and pajama pants would be useful. We ask that the donations are clean and in good condition. Donations can be left in the room at Emanuel designated for the Pop-Up Shop. The room is located on the lower level of the building, all the way at the end of the Sunday School hallway. The room is on the far right, next to one of the children's restrooms. The door is labeled with a sign: "Pop-Up Shop".

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity!

If you have questions, please call Diane Gawlinski at 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: aheinrich@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 will resume on September 3 at 10 AM in the library.

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

Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC), is a Latinx/ Latiné open and affirming ministry that welcomes all.

MNC holds worship in the Community Room at Emanuel on the **first Sunday of every month at 12 noon**. Seminarian and former Emanuel Field Education Student, Bea Santiago leads the service. Everyone from Emanuel is invited to attend. All ages are welcome!



Emanuel Choirs will begin their regular rehearsals on Thursday, September 10.

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.



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 the **COMMUNITY ROOM** at Emanuel on Wednesday, 9/2 at **7 PM**. Questions? Contact: jagianinio@gmail.com

Please note the change in the room at the church and the later start time for the Sept. meeting. The October meeting will also start at 7 PM, but will meet in Luther Hall.

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

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> <i>Blessing of Backpacks during worship</i> 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary 2:00pm Protest Music Through the Years - Sing-Along In Center Park, Manchester	31 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM Visitor newsletter mailing	1 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 6:00pm Ruth Circle Gathering: Cold Potluck and 2027 Planning Meeting - LH	2 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 6:00pm Greater Hartford Conference Discernment Meeting - LH 7:00pm The Hem Hangout - CR	3 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library	4 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	5
6 <i>Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier</i> 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH 12:00pm Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) Worship Service - Community Room 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary	7 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED - LABOR DAY 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	8 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom	9 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 7:00pm Bible Study led by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) - LH	10 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	11 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	12 9:00am Grow With Me Music - CR 3:00pm Braman Family Gathering - LH
13 <i>Assisting Minister - Adela Garmendia</i> <i>Children's Sermon During Worship</i> <i>Gifting of Bibles for 3 year olds and 3rd Graders</i> RALLY DAY 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Rally Day Celebration with Pizza and Kona Ice - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary 1:30pm Worship Service at Evergreen Crossings In South Windsor	14 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	15 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED Visitor newsletter deadline 7:00pm Council Meeting - LH	16 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 7:00pm Bible Study led by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) - LH	17 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	18 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED	19 9:00am Grow With Me Music - CR
20 <i>Alexander Young Baptism During Worship</i> <i>Assisting Minister - Kathy Rusch</i> God's Work, Our Hands Event with Trinity Lutheran Church, Vernon 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH 11:30am Greater Hartford Conference Confirmation Class - Sunday School Room 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary	21 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 10:00am Music From the Heart Band rehearsal - MR	22 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED	23 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 7:00pm Bible Study led by Ministerio Nueva Creacion (MNC) - LH	24 CHURCH OFFICE: CLOSED 10:00am Bible Study - Library 5:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room	25 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM	26 9:00am Grow With Me Music - CR
27 <i>Assisting Minister - Beverly Niemann</i> 10:00am Emanuel Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Emanuel Coffee Hour - LH 1:30pm Christ Church Worship Service - 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	30 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM 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

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.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS SUNDAY

SUNDAY, SEPT. 20

**SIGN UP FOR A SERVICE PROJECT.
SIGN UP SHEETS IN THE NARTHEX.**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN VERNON



God's work. Our hands.

Thrivent Action Team Thanks

Special thanks to the following members for receiving approved Action Teams to support Emanuel and its ministries. All of the events/projects are happening between late August and late October.

- ♦ Pastor Joanna (Calumet Retreat)
- ♦ Helen Johnson (MACC Canned Pasta & Soup Drive & Rally Day)
- ♦ Gail McGrath (Rally Day)
- ♦ Lisa Little (Rally Day)
- ♦ Ray Purtell (Stewardship Materials Printing)
- ♦ Marianne Wilcox (Stewardship Celebration)
- ♦ Ray Wilcox (Stewardship Mailing/Postage)

The seven approved Action Teams provide Emanuel with \$1,750 to support these important programs and ministries. If you are a Thrivent member who is eligible to sponsor an Action Team and would like to either suggest a project or support an idea, please let me know. I can help facilitate the process and would love to work with you. I can be reached at purt1015@gmail.com or 860-338-7830. *Ray Purtell, Thrivent Coordinator*

Caring

September Birthdays (Emanuel Members 75+ yrs.)

Marjorie Andersen	9/3		Dennise Carter	9/20
Alfred Meier	9/6		Barbara Heinrich	9/20
Patricia Nelson	9/6		Patricia Anderson	9/22
Nelson Robinson	9/6		Edna Nekiunas	9/23
John Reed	9/9		Diana McVicker	9/24
Susan Horton	9/10			

My partner/husband and I had the pleasure of hearing The Rev. Joanna Hertzog Betkoski speak at our friend Susan Plese's funeral service some weeks back. And to hear Mr. Sirois's masterful piano playing as well. We were so impressed with the experience that Lynn (my husband) has visited the church garden three times in the last couple of weeks, including this afternoon, to do some badly needed weeding and trimming in honor of our dear friend, and I have just made a donation from us both to the preservation fund. Thank you for the outstanding work you are doing and the contributions you make to the community, including sharing your passion for music. We have enjoyed concerts there over the years as well.

Best and sincere thanks, Gerry Lupacchino and Lynn Beaulieu

Emanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your contribution towards my first week of Camp Calumet. I had so much fun! We played lots of camp wide games. My favorite part was canoe-tipping with my cousins. I can't WAIT to go back next summer.

Ian Mittelholzer (age 8)

Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members,

Thank you so much for your generous gifts during June and July 2026 for a total monetary gift of \$4,636.56 plus a gift of \$250. to the MACC Charities Emergency Food Pantry. As we move through this fiscal year, the need for basic support remains significant, with 1 in 7 households experiencing food insecurity. Your partnership helps us respond to these growing needs with compassion and care. Together we are making a difference. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our community.

Many Blessings, Shannon Baldassario, CEO of MACC

Dear Members of Emanuel Lutheran Church.

It is a joy for us to thank our partners in this gospel ministry that we share. We are especially grateful for your gift of \$894. during the ELCA World Hunger matching campaign. Donations up to \$50,000 were matched dollar-for-dollar by a generous donor. Because of your generosity and that of other members of the New England Synod, over \$250,000 has gone to ELCA World Hunger as part of this challenge. Together we are supporting hungry communities around the world!

When you reach out in giving beyond your own community, you are a witness to the spirit of Jesus Christ who calls us to care for one another and stretch towards ever-widening circles of love.

*Sincerely, The Rev. David Rinas and Doreen Rinas
World Hunger Team, New England Synod*



Emanuel Staff

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Berk and Lisa Little
Worship Support Specialists



EMANUEL LUTHERAN
RALLY DAY
SUN. SEPT. 13 AT 10AM

- BIBLES FOR 3 YEAR OLDS AND 3RD GRADERS
- PIZZA AND KONA ICE FOR LUNCH
- PING PONG TOURNAMENT
- BRING IN CANS OF SOUP OR CANNED PASTA MEALS FOR MACC!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED