

Merry Christmas!

MINISTERS:

The People of Emanuel

THE STAFF:

Senior Pastor
Visitation Pastor
Director of Christian Education
Director of Music
Assistant Director of Music
Administrative Assistant
Sexton
Ministerial Assistant
Director of Operations
Coordinator of Ministries

The Rev. John A. F. Corgan
The Rev. John J. Marschhausen
Natalie Bloomquist, A.I.M.
Jonathan Reuning-Scherer
Katie Cox
Karen Rudewicz
Rachid Chelali
Vicar Dominic Smyth
Jane Wunder
Becki Murphy



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Christmas Eve

Candlelight Festival Service of Worship



EMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Growing in Faith Together.

Emanuel Lutheran Church

311 Capitol Ave.

Hartford, CT 06106, 860-525-0894

www.emanuelhartford.org



THE MISSION OF
EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

In response to Christ's love we:

Worship God in joyful celebration,
Invite others into this community of Christ,
Serve those in need in the community and in the world,
Nurture all people in faith through Christian education,
Encourage and support one another in Christian living and fellowship.

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December 24, 2015 ✦ 5:00 p.m.

E m a n u e l L u t h e r a n C h u r c h

H a r t f o r d , C o n n e c t i c u t

W E L C O M E T O E M A N U E L !

The presence of all who have come to celebrate Christmas adds to the joy of worshipping the Lord on this glorious night. Welcome, friends! May the full meaning of Christmas be real to us all, now and always. If you have any questions or need assistance of any kind, please see an usher or the pastor.

Holy Communion — Communion will be celebrated tonight at the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Large print bulletins — available from the ushers.

Photographs and Electronic Devices — In the spirit of worship, please refrain from taking photographs during the service. Also, please turn off all cell phones and other devices during worship. Thank you !

T H O S E S E R V I N G T O N I G H T

Presiding Minister The Rev. John A. F. Corgan
Assisting Minister Vicar Dominic Smyth
Director of Music..... Jonathan Reuning-Scherer
Assistant Music Director..... Katie Cox
Musicians..... Emanuel Choir;
..... Emanuel Bell Choir; Emanuel Brass Ensemble
Acolytes Hannah Karim and Sam Johnson
Greeters..... The Lee Sherman family
Lectors Diana and Lee Sherman
Sound and Recording Kelly Caldwell

*M*anger Scene Playsets

Many thanks to Megan Murphy who did the good work of cutting out the manger scene playsets that are in the ziplocs given out to each family tonight.

2015 Christmas Memorials

In Honor/Memory of:

“Grannie” Kathryn Irene Oberg
Leonard Olson
Our dear departed loved ones
Our parents
Our parents
Our parents
Our parents, Joseph and Claire Bellis and the Rev. Edward R. Hanson and Ruby Hanson
Our son, Dale Dennler and his grandparents, Ruth and Gus Dennler and Hildur and Torsten Johnson
Parents, John and Borghild Bloomquist and Arthur and Gerda Hedin
Karen Pergande and in honor of her sisters
Rev. Stanley and Gladys Sandberg
Amy J. Smith
Thomas D. Smith
Inge Swanback
Albert and Bernice Swanson
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Swanson and Ernest B. Swanson
Kenneth Swanson, Sr.
Their parents, Lilly and Eric Johanson and Constance and Leland Parmelee
With Praise for the Corgan Family
Robert S. Zyko

Given by:

The Murphy family
His loving family
Shirley August and Peg Zachariassen
Lynn and Lee Sherman
Charles and Rebecca Thomas
Bob and Rosie Vojtek
The Bellis family
Carol and Brad Dennler
Cliff and Myrtle Bloomquist
Ramona and Harlan Pergande
Ken and Karin Stetson and family
Ross and Susan Smith
Ross and Susan Smith
Her family: Bill, Carl, and Debra
Swanson, Smith and Caracuzzi family
Carol and Stanley G. Johnson, Jr.
Ann Louise Swanson
Arlene and David Parmelee
Glenna and Chet Brodnicki
Lance Hansen
11

2015 Christmas Memorials

In Honor/Memory of:

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley G. Johnson, Sr.

Wanda Kasmarzyk

Richard Leich

Gilbert and Carolyn Liljedahl

Irene V. Lindholm

G. Arnold and Linnea Lindquist

Loved ones

Loved ones

Loved ones

Loved ones

Loved ones

Harold E. and
Jessie Magnuson

Miriam and Harris Magnusson

James P. McCann

Mebret's family in Ethiopia

Mary Meyers

Rev. Eugene F. Mitchell

My Dad and Mom, Arvid and Helen
Carlson

My loving, dedicated parents
Viola and Ralph Hattie

Gerald Prentice and Marguerite
Johnson Nye

Given by:

Carol and Stanley G. Johnson, Jr.

Bill, Sue, Laura, Chris, and Russ

Rob and Kristina

Richard and Russell Liljedahl and families

Ross and Susan Smith

Edward and Susan Maher
Dale, Marion, John and Kirsten Lindquist

Barb and Rick Berg

Pauline Cochrane

Susan and Richard Johnson

Elaine and Sara Strecker

Susan Wilson

The Obadowski and Pellegato families

Their niece, Karin Stetson and family

Lorraine and family

Mebret and Patti Farquhar

Eleanor and Mal Doyle

His family

Daughter, Betty-Lois

Their daughter, Carolyn W. Hattie at
Hughes Health and Rehab

The Nye Corgan family



Christmas Eve

**5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight
Festival Service of Worship**

Prayers and responses for the congregation are shown in bold print.

**Please rise as you are able.*

Christmas Prelude Music

While Shepherds Watched

Christmas Selections

Have you Heard?

Hosianna

Noel

Emanuel Choir

Emanuel Bell Choir

Emanuel Choir

Emanuel Choir

Emanuel Choir

Welcome

Pastor Corgan

***Christmas Call To Worship**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

Oh, come, let us worship him.

The people who walked in darkness, have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

We have seen Christ's glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Today Christ is born; today salvation has appeared.

Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!

***Opening Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymn 283

*Apostolic Greeting

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

And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray together:

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be Seated)

Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2015 Christmas Memorials

In Honor/Memory of:

Gunnar and Stella Aronson,
Russell and Elin Bjorklund

Brenda

Donna D. Casciano

Francis John Corgan

Francis John Henry and
Bertha Stoutland Corgan

Rich Czernicki

Departed loved ones

Francis R. Dunne, Marion and William Wieber,
Robert Labriola

Family and friends

Arlene P. Glock and Edward A. Glock, Jr.

Tyler, Jason and Jeremy Steven

Florence Hanson

Elaine, Allen, Jeff, Anna and Folke Heline

His Parents and Brother

Bob Johnson

George G. Johnson, E. Louisa B. Johnson,
Mary and Ray LeFrancois,
Beatrice and Walter Turner

Eric W. Johnson, Sr.

Helge R. Johnson

Richard R. Johnson, Jr.

Given by:

The Bjorklund family

Her mother and sister

Chris and Claudia Bellis

Pastor Corgan

The Nye Corgan family

Lance and Valerie Hansen

Joan Feldmann

The Wieber family

Paul and Lynne Strecker

The Glock family

Andy and Nancy Gray

Arnold, Shirley, Rob and Kristina

Susan and John Franzis

Karin and Kenneth Stetson and family

Lance and Valerie Hansen

Lanie and Russ Turner and
Len and Laretta Johnson

Anna-Lisa Johnson, Eric and Marie,
Rebecca and Samantha Johnson

His wife, Edith and family

Susan and Richard Johnson

A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson:

Loving God,
help us to remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

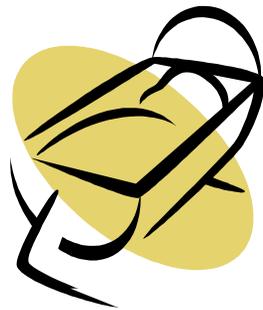
A Prayer Before Opening Presents:

Dear Jesus, Thank you for being born on that first Christmas. Be with us as we celebrate your birthday. As we open our gifts help us remember that you were the first and greatest gift. Do not let us ignore the true reason for our celebration, but like Mary help us ponder all this in our hearts and be ready to go out into the world proclaiming the Good News. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Christmas Dinner Prayers:

In the peace of this season our spirits are joyful: with the beasts and angels, the shepherds and stars, with Mary and Joseph we sing God's praise. By your coming may the hungry be filled with good things, and may all tables and homes be blessed. Amen.

God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful for each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today. We remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat. We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember your challenging message of caring and giving, and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world. We bless you and give thanks on this Christmas and always. Amen.



⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* Hymn 275, v. 1-2

*Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it

(continued on next page)

were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

***Gospel Response** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* Hymn 275, v. 3-4

The Christmas Story

Please sing together: *Away in a Manger* Hymn 277

The Nativity of Our Lord

The Christmas Hymn *Once in Royal David's City* Hymn 269

Sermon "Christmas Cheer?" Pastor Corgan

*The Prayers

After each prayer petition: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(please sit)

Offering

O Holy Night

The Lighting of the Candles

The ministers, carrying large candles, take a light from the altar candles, symbolizing Jesus the Light of the World.

Please pass the light carefully from candle to candle by dipping the unlit candle to the lighted one. Parents, please assist your children. As soon as all candles are lighted we will sing together "Silent Night." For the third stanza, please lift your candle high and hold it until the conclusion of the hymn.

***Hymn** *Silent Night, Holy Night* Hymn 281

*Christmas Benediction

A child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless us and all people everywhere this night and always. **Amen.**

(please extinguish all candles)

*Hallelujah Chorus: All are welcome to participate!

Postlude *Christmas Jazz* Emanuel Brass Ensemble

MAY THE PEACE AND JOY OF THE CHRIST CHILD BE YOURS.

Please join us

First Sunday of Christmas Worship, December 27 at 10:00 a.m.

Emanuel will be honored to have **College Students and Young Adults** participate in the worship life of the congregation as ushers, lectors, greeters, assisting ministers, choir members and other ways as needed. What a great way to end the year! Also, after service at **11:30 a.m.**, all **College Students and Young Adults** are invited to join **Vicar Dominic Smyth and others at Pepe's in West Hartford.** Please **RSVP** with Vicar Dominic Smyth at **215-820-9113** or dominic.smyth@emanuelhartford.org.

New Year's Eve Worship, December 31 at 5:00 p.m.

Celebrate New Year's Eve at Emanuel!

Once again, we are offering a unique way to usher in the New Year. Come to church on **Thursday, December 31, at 5:00 p.m.** for a short 20 minute family oriented service. Then join us in Luther Hall for hot chocolate and cookies. At 5:40 p.m. we will walk across the street to enjoy the First Night fireworks display behind the Capitol Building. **If you happen to have any leftover Christmas cookies that you would be willing to share, please bring them with you to the service. What a fun way to close 2015 and welcome 2016. Please join us.**

