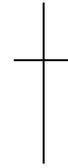


God With Us

The Newsletter of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Hartford



EMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Growing in Faith Together.



Holy Week

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Palm Sunday, April 9 | Services of Holy Communion | 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. |
| Maundy Thursday, April 13 | Special Prayer Station Service with First Communion | 7:00 p.m. |
| Good Friday, April 14 | Good Friday Service led by Emanuel's Musicians | 7:00 p.m. |
| Easter Sunday, April 16 | Celebratory Easter Service | 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. |

FINAL MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE



Wednesday, April 5

6:00 p.m. Soup, Bread & Bible Study in Luther Hall

7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer Service In Sanctuary

All are welcome!

SUNDAYS IN APRIL

April 2 Zacchaeus Luke 18:31-19:0

Services of Holy Communion at 8 & 10 a.m.

Altar Communion offered (optional)

11:30 a.m. Special Congregational Meeting in Luther Hall

April 9 Palm & Passion Sunday Luke 19:29-40 & the Passion according to Luke
Holy Communion at 8 & 10 a.m.

April 16 Easter Sunday! The Resurrection of Jesus Christ
Please note: Special Service times at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

April 23 The Road to Emmaus Luke 24:13-35
Services of Holy Communion at 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

April 30 Stephen's Witness Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60
Service of Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

ONE SERVICE SUNDAY - Baptism at 10 a.m. Service

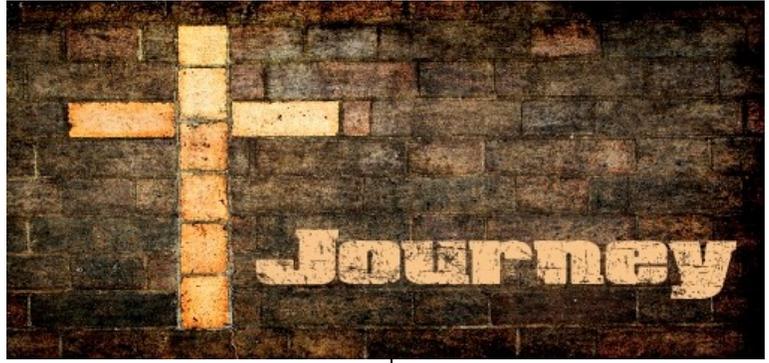
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Effective immediately, please send any input or announcements for the Sunday News or the *God with Us* newsletter to Pastor Maria at pastormhammons@gmail.com

Articles for the newsletter are due to Pastor Hammons by the 17th of each month. Thank you for honoring this deadline.



www.emanuelhartford.org



Connect with us on Facebook!
Visit <https://www.facebook.com/emanuelhartford>

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 & support one another ...
in Christian living and fellowship.

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If you are calling after hours or on a weekend and have a pastoral emergency, please call: 860-300-0019, and a Pastor will return your call as soon as possible.





*From the
Pastor...*

Surprised by Easter!

Easter is upon us! And we are filled with joy as we watch the children enjoy their Easter baskets and show off their new Easter outfits. I'm wondering if we may even see some "Easter bonnets".

We are blessed as we gather together to worship our Risen Lord! Hearts filled with Alleluias! Easter Worship filled with our favorite hymns, special music, beautiful flowers, and the joy of our community of faith in fellowship. A time we are especially blessed to welcome "the stranger in our midst" - inviting new faces to join with us in worship and fellowship, to hear God's Word, to trust in God's promises, and to know God's love.

Easter is a day filled with joy-filled surprises. And as we listen to God's Word, if we really listen to the Easter Story, we'll hear the Good News about the best surprise...the most joy-filled surprise ever!

One thing's for certain, the women at the tomb on that very first Easter Sunday were surprised! First by an earthquake; but that was nothing compared to the surprise of an angel appearing to them, like a lightning bolt, out of nowhere.

The angel tells them that Jesus has been raised, just as He promised. The women remembered Jesus' words; they remembered that He said He would be raised after three days, and they had **come to see**. The angel rolled the stone away and said, **Come, see the place where He was laid**. And then they encountered their next surprise – **the empty tomb** - God's promise fulfilled!

But that's not the end of the story; far from it. In so many important ways, it's only the beginning! ... For these faithful disciples... and for us.

The angel sends the women on a mission, "**Go and tell** the disciples that Jesus has been raised from the dead ... He's going to Galilee. You will see Him there." And as the women set out on their mission, they encounter their best surprise... because while they're on their journey, they see Jesus!

Jesus tells them **not to be afraid** - not now, not ever. And He gives them a command that can best be translated - **Keep going and keep telling!**

Emanuel friends- the heart of the Easter mission message can be summed up in three easy phrases...

Don't be afraid! The Promise of God's mercy and love is for all people, all times, all places. Trust in those promises, they are yours!

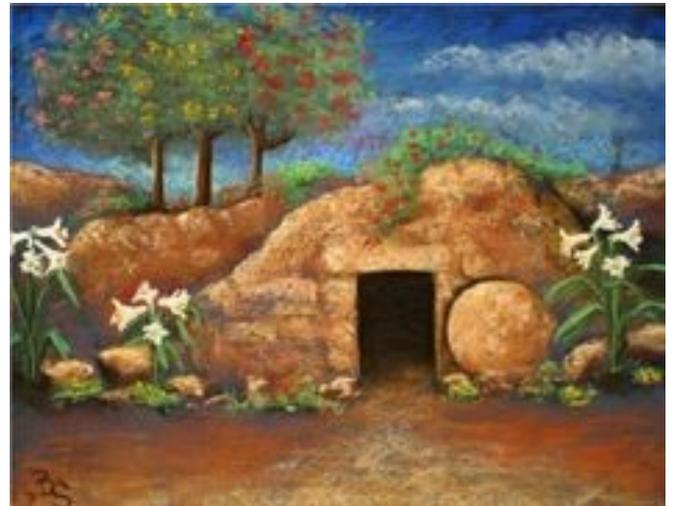
Come and see! We gather as a faith community to be nurtured & challenged by God's Word, to be strengthened & nourished by the Holy Meal. Let our God surprise you with joy!

Go and Tell! Better yet - **Keep going & keep telling!** Think about it - if those 1st century disciples had not *kept going & kept telling* the Easter message of God's love & forgiveness - we in the 21st century would never have heard ... never have known... God's promise. So...

***Don't be afraid!
Come and see!
Go and tell!***

And may the joy-filled surprises of Easter warm your heart and bless your life!

Pastor Maria



*He is not here ...
He is risen!*

Congregational Meeting

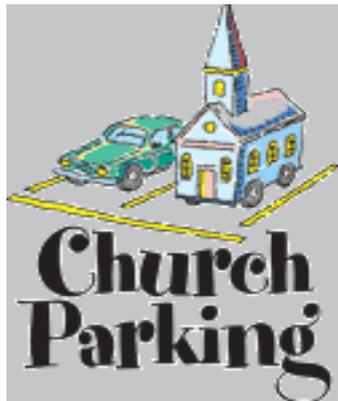


A SPECIAL SHORT (WE PROMISE!) CONGREGATIONAL MEETING -APRIL 2

Please mark your calendars for (yes, another) special congregational meeting to be held on **Sunday, April 2, immediately following the 10 a.m. Service, in the Sanctuary.**

We will be approving the use of newly available monies from Accessibility Fund investment earnings. We will hear about possible uses for these funds, including items previously dropped from the project plan due to budget constraints.

As we expect this to be a very brief meeting, we will remain in the Sanctuary. Please make every effort to attend so that we can meet quorum. Thank you!



To our "able-bodied" Emanuel friends. . .

Please be kind to our elder or injured Parishioners, and to those who have trouble walking a distance, and remember to park in the State parking lot on Sundays.

We've had some folks who cannot walk that distance who have been unable to find a space in our very limited parking lot on Sunday mornings, and so therefore could not attend worship.

Thank you so much for your consideration!



Transition Process Worship & Music Survey

We want to thank the many members who chose to participate in the transition worship and music survey. We were pleased to see their expressed appreciation of their worship experience at Emanuel. We were also very grateful for the time and thought that went into your responses. More than 60 surveys were returned (some of which were "we" responses, i.e. submitted on behalf of more than one individual in a family) - so a really solid response.

The good news is that, overall, the people of Emanuel are happy with worship – the music, the preaching, and the liturgy – are experienced as meaningful and fulfilling. Additionally, most parishioners are pleased to have our young children in worship, and would like to see more involvement of children and youth in the Service.

At the same time, there are improvements that can be made in all categories, and we received many helpful suggestions and ideas to seriously consider. A list of those ideas was handed out at our March 19 special congregation transition meeting, and parishioners "hilited" their top three. The following are the overall top 3 highlights from those lists:

#1 - Effort should be made to increase the role of children/youth in worship (Jr. ushers, lectors, greeters; sharing their musical gifts—Harper scholarship students and others; etc.); would like to see youth services with the youth leading/doing everything, except presiding at communion.

#2 - Maintain the mix of traditional and contemporary music.

#3 - Continue current preaching style with additional ties to the "news of the day" - social gospel.

Watch this space for more news!

Emanuel's Transition Process
Worship & Music Survey Team

*Doug Larson Rae Ann Gremmel
Glenna Brodnicki Alan Meeds*



Transition Together

Dear Friends in Christ. . .

Our transition journey continues—and so much has happened since I last wrote. Small group meetings have been completed, the worship survey has been received, and - on March 19 - almost 100 Emanuel parishioners came together to hear the results. The following lists the top three highlights of those things the congregation felt were most important.

Hopes

- ♦ Increase membership (of course :)
- ♦ Would like the new Pastor's sermons to be powerful, funny, and interactive.
- ♦ Youth issues, i.e. more activities, team building, youth room, think about ways to appeal to youth

Concerns

- ♦ How to reach out to new people and help them get "integrated" into the congregation
- ♦ The large endowment is both a treasure and a curse. Competing perspectives on whether to "save for posterity" or "spend for mission" will challenge us until we figure out our purpose, and apply funds toward fulfilling Emanuel's vision.

Fears (4 listed, because last two were almost tied)

- ♦ How does the church stay/become relevant in the lives of busy people?
- ♦ Concerns about Deacon Natalie Bloomquist leaving Emanuel, and the lack of a Christian Educations Coordinator
- ♦ Losing members; need a critical mass.
- ♦ Need to identify vision actions and leaders to follow through; will people step forward to lead?

Dreams

- ♦ To see the pews filled with enthusiastic people and the choir loft with joyous singers.
- ♦ That Emanuel recognizes its tremendous potential to make a difference, especially for the people of Hartford, and beyond.
- ♦ The building will be used every day, all day, for church activities and community groups.

(Worship & Music Transition Survey results on page 4).

Parishioners also participated in "Table Talk" conversations. The following is a list of the questions we talked about. (*Watch this space next month to see the responses from those attending.*)

- ❖ What would God love about Emanuel?
- ❖ What would God change about Emanuel?
- ❖ Where is God leading Emanuel?
- ❖ Why Emanuel? In other words, since more than 95% of Emanuel's parishioners live outside the city, if you met a new person in your neighborhood who was looking for a church - and there was a good church in your neighborhood—what would you tell this person about Emanuel that would make them want to make the trip into the city?

Finally, we talked about our next step - the "CAT" - the Congregational Assessment Tool - a survey which will be filled out by Emanuel's parishioners between Sunday, March 26, and Monday, April 10. This is the survey that all of our previous meetings and conversations have been preparing us for—opportunities to think & discuss Emanuel's history, its present, and its future - to dream, and to pray.

We wrapped up our conversation with this question to ponder ... ***If Emanuel no longer existed - who would miss it ... and, why?*** How would you answer that question? Think about it ... what gifts has God given the Emanuel faith community? What makes you unique... and what mission could grow out of that uniqueness? How would you like to be known in the Hartford community? If you told someone that you belong to Emanuel Lutheran in Hartford, how would you want them to *fill in this blank* ... "Oh, that's the Church that does ..."? What "dream" would excite you- prompt you to action - inspire you to step out in faith - as a congregation?

Once you articulate Emanuel's faith-filled "dream" – it will help define your identity as a congregation, and your faithful purpose in the world. It will also help you to call a pastor who shares your passion, sees your vision, and will help lead your mission - a Pastor who understands Emanuel's challenges & gifts, and is excited about taking the next step with you, on your journey of faith.

With prayers for the journey!
Pastor Hammons



Birthdays and Anniversaries are noted for those who are:

- 80 years of age and every year thereafter.
- Married for 50 years and every year thereafter.

Special Emanuel Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Susan Johnson | April 1 |
| Ronald Lindlauf | April 3 |
| Burt Hedling | April 7 |
| Pauline Cochrane | April 8 |
| Don Ahlberg | April 10 |
| Eileen Mitchell | April 13 |
| Carol Dennler | April 25 |

Special Emanuel Anniversaries

Jean Bronson 63 years!

Crafters' Corner

Thursday Crafters Help Wanted!

For the "Craft Painters" producing items for the 2017 fair, October 28 seems to be just around the corner!

More help is needed for:

- Sketching Painting
- Sanding Sealing
- Decorating

The group meets Thursdays from 10am–2pm (bring a sandwich) in Manchester, at the home of Ramona Pergande. For more information and directions, call Ramona at 860-646-6954. (And guys, you're invited to join in also!)

"Tuesday Crafters" meet weekly at the home of Judy Johnson at 10:00 a.m.

2017 Church Council

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| TROUTMAN, GARY | trouty13@juno.com |

Christ in our Home Devotional



Be sure to look in the back of the Nave & Luther Hall for the April, May, June (free) issue of *Christ in our Home*, a Devotional book that offers daily

reflections and prayer. Each day provides a short Bible text with a brief, thoughtful message, and a simple prayer. Large print copies are also available.



St. Lucia DVD's Available

If you have any questions or would like to purchase a DVD, please contact Kim Halstead at kimmya73@yahoo.com.

A Note from Deacon Natalie

As many of you know, I will be resigning from my position as Director of Christian Education by the end of this summer. As a rostered leader in the ELCA, I knew when I accepted Emanuel's Call to serve as an Associate in Ministry (now Deacon) that my Call was co-terminus. That is, when the Senior Pastor retired, I was to resign in order to provide space for new ideas and new ways of doing things. Bishop Hazelwood asked me to remain on staff during the transition period, but as the Call Committee's work will have begun this summer, my ministry at Emanuel will be completed before September 1.

It has been a blessing to share in the faith growth of Emanuel's children, youth, and families over these sixteen years. I have learned so much. I trust that as Emanuel transitions into its future, God will continue to bless the families and the whole faith community with gifts and love that enable them to go out and make a difference in God's world.

I know there are some who are concerned about how I feel about my leaving. Please know that although I will miss serving with Emanuel, I am fine, and excited to learn more about how God wants me to serve in this next stage of my ministry journey.

It is my prayer that Emanuel receive this change with optimism and see it as an opportunity to reflect deeply on the future of Emanuel's faith formation ministry. I know change can be difficult at first. No matter how much I truly believe that God is guiding and nurturing Emanuel through the transition and Call process, I know I sometimes look at the past through a lens clouded with nostalgia. However, my life's experiences, my training, and my heart have shown me that change is not only life-giving but also life-affirming. God has granted Emanuel life and God will continue to bless Emanuel as it proclaims the Good News of Jesus Christ and goes out into the world to do God's work.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Please remember, there are always prayer shawls available for anyone in need of this symbol of love and caring.

Please speak to Lynn Sherman, Eileen Mitchell, or Jane Wunder in the church office.

Prayer Shawl Ministry & Bible Conversation

Thursday **Prayer Shawl Ministry** and **Bible Conversation** meets at the Sherman home. All are welcome! Call the Church Office for more information.

Prayer Shawl Ministry at 9:30am
Bible Conversation at 10:00 a.m.

Please note: The April 20th Prayer Shawl Ministry & Bible Conversation will be held at the home of Abby Stadlander.



Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

Donini family † Elaine Wilson † Alice Gustafson † DeAndre Moore
Betty-Lois Benson † Diane Roule † Judy Johnson † Deedee Lewis
Rose Dooley † Emerrene Bailey † Carla Petry † Bob Bridgett
Dominick DeMartino † Norma Johnson † Virginia Nilson
Beverly Swanson † Pamela Vigil † Ron Rounds
Eric Hammons † Lauren & Steve Belschner † Natalie Fulmer
Dr. Daniel McMenamin † George Leaphart and family

*If any of the above names can be removed,
please let us know.*

In Memoriam



*May the comfort and hope
of the resurrection be with
the family and friends of
all of the saints of Emanuel.*

Sunday School News

BY DEACON NATALIE BLOOMQUIST

This Lenten season, the children have focused on caring for each other and sharing God's love by making Easter cards to be delivered with the plants for our homebound members and collecting new and gently used shoes for children in Hartford area preschool programs.



Each week I am amazed at the beauty and love shared by our children. Their cards of Resurrection joy are going to bring huge smiles to the faces and hearts of our homebound members.



And what a privilege it has been to have the children help Pastor Maria deliver the Blessing at the end of worship each week!



Reminder to 3rd grade parents

First Communion Instruction will be offered with Pastor Maria and Deacon Natalie on:

March 26 and April 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

April 9 -11:30 a.m. We will bake communion bread for Maundy Thursday.

April 13-Maundy Thursday First Communion will be received during Maundy Thursday worship, 7 p.m.

Please note: First Communion at Emanuel is generally offered to children in 3rd grade or older. That said, if your younger child is asking to receive communion and you would like to discuss this possibility, please talk with Pastor Maria. You can reach Pastor at the Church Office: 860-525-0894 x 2 or by email pastormhammons@gmail.com

SPARK Lessons in April:

How do these stories help you understand God and how God works in our lives?

April 2: Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus' neighbors did not like him because he was a part of Roman domination. As a chief tax collector, Zacchaeus collected taxes in the district. But he cheated people and took more money than was required and kept it for himself. Although Jesus did not like what Zacchaeus did because it hurt other people, Jesus still loved Zacchaeus. Jesus loves everyone! After meeting Jesus, Zacchaeus learned how to live in a way that shares Jesus' love with others. Luke 19:1-10

April 9: PALM SUNDY.

On Palm Sunday, we remember a very special parade as Jesus entered Jerusalem. We know there is a surprise ending to the story, but not everyone around Jesus understood what was going to happen next. Luke 19:29-44 The children sing a wonderful song at the beginning of worship to welcome Jesus to Jerusalem!

April 16: EASTER SUNDAY
No class.

April 23: The Road to Emmaus.

In this story, two people are walking along the road who are very sad because Jesus had died on the cross. They didn't know he had risen and was alive. As they are walking, a stranger meets them and walks with them along the road. He tells them about all the stories in scripture that show us how much God loves everyone. Surprise! The stranger is Jesus and he is alive! Luke 24:13-35

April 30: Early Believers.

After Jesus went to live with God, people had to remember what Jesus had taught them about who Jesus is and how to live. In worship, we'll learn about Stephen, a follower of Jesus who was very brave and, even when it was dangerous, Stephen reminded people that Jesus, who died, rose to life, and ascended to heaven, was the Messiah. Because Jesus lives, we live also even after we die. That's good news! During Sunday School, we will learn about the first Christians who shared everything with each other and took care of each other. That's how Jesus wants us to live! Acts 2:43-47; 4:32-37



Prayer for the Month:

Thank you, Jesus, for loving everyone. Help us to remember that your love is big and without exception. Help us to love in the same way. Amen.

Children's Library News



The Children's Library has many books from the Arch book series. These books, done in rhyme, tell many Bible stories from both the Old and New Testaments.

Among the Arch books found in the library are many that tell the stories of Holy Week. The Bread and the Wine includes Jesus washing the feet of His disciples, Judas' betrayal, and the sharing of the bread and wine at the Last Supper. Good Friday begins with Palm Sunday and includes the arrest of Jesus and His death on the cross. The Man Who Carried the Cross for Jesus

tells the lesser known story of Simon, a visitor to Jerusalem who was forced to carry the cross for Jesus. Simon understands what a privilege he has been given and becomes a follower of Jesus, spreading Jesus' Word in his homeland. The Easter Day Surprise continues the Easter story with Jesus' resurrection. This story begins with sadness and confusion over the "disappearance" of Jesus' body, and ends with Mary's conversation with and recognition of her Lord. Jesus Returns to Heaven tells how Jesus spent His time on earth between His resurrection and ascension, instructing His followers to teach, baptize, and spread His love. The book ends with Jesus' ascension to heaven. Other Easter books include The Easter Women, My Happy Easter Book and Kiri and the first Easter.

Bring your children and check out our many Arch books, as well as all of our other Easter books that can be found in our library corner in the music room.



Youth Group News



LutherHostel at Camp Calumet April 17 - 20, 2017

Pastor Richard Olson will serve as chaplain, giving an overview of the basic practices and beliefs of Islam. Our presenters, Bill Ayadi and Joyce Hinckley, will bring art as well as music and scents of the region. There will be plenty of time for discussion and questions.

Please contact Janet and John Starkes at 860-561-2897 for more information.

For the month of April, Emanuel's youth group is going to be working on raising donations for the "Walk Against Hunger" event on Sunday May 7th.

Youth Leaders are also talking to Hands on Hartford about planning a service project for the youth group this spring.

Tentative Youth Group meeting dates for April - Sunday, April 2nd & Sunday, April 23rd.

Questions? Talk to one of Emanuel's Youth Leaders.

Lance Hansen
Mindy Olson

Melissa Johnson
Kristina Leich



Ladies Who "Lunch" - Join us!

To try to include more ladies, we are going to have lunch one month, and dinner at the same restaurant the following month. Lunches at 12:30 pm, Dinners at 6:30 pm

Next month: April 12th Dinner @ Tapas Bloomfield



Wednesday evening mid-week Services during Lent have given Confirmation families the opportunity to slow down and reflect on their faith in the God who became human, suffered and died on the cross, rose from the dead, and lives again so that we, too, may live. Candlelight shines warmly in the dimmed sanctuary. Our voices join to offer the beauty of Holden Evening prayer as we cradle a stone in our hands, reminding us of the sin Jesus came to defeat. We gather in a circle to commune each other with the Body and Blood of our Savior. After receiving forgiveness, we let go of our sin, placing our stones in the bowl. As meditative Taize music surrounds us, we kneel at the altar rail to pray and light a candle. We leave in silence with renewed hearts as we continue our Lenten journey to Jerusalem.

For youth committed to a ministry of the church that guides them in the exploration and formation of their faith, participation in Holy Week worship is important and expected. On Palm/Passion Sunday they will relive the excitement of the crowds who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem, not understanding what kind of a king Jesus would actually turn out to be. On Maundy Thursday they will hear Jesus’ command to love others and experience Jesus’ transformation of the Passover meal as he, the Lamb of God, becomes the Body and Blood of humanity’s salvation. On Good Friday they will experience the events of the day in which humanity’s sin was brought to the cross. The stones held in our hands each Wednesday evening will be poured at the foot of the cross as Jesus takes on our sin. In the darkness we will leave in silence, pondering Jesus’ death and longing for the joy to come on Easter morning.

As Christians, how can we experience Easter joy without Holy Week?

Our schedule for the remainder of 2016-2017 is:

Please note: Two all-grades gatherings remain: April 26 and May 10.

- April 5 Lent Worship at 7:00 p.m.
- April 13 Attend Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00 p.m.
- April 14 Attend Good Friday Worship at 7:00 p.m.

April 21-23 Confirmation Retreat at Camp Calumet, NH

We’re excited for Confirmation Retreat at Calumet on April 21-23! Every year we enjoy the opportunity to get away from busy schedules to spend time with youth from all over the New England Synod to have LOTS of fun and explore our faith in a safe and comfortable environment. Check back next month for photos of our Calumet adventure!

- April 26 Youth and Parent Gathering
- May 10 Youth and Parent Gathering
- May 24 8th Grade Confirmands and Parents only
- June 7 Potluck for Confirmands, Families, and Prayer Friends

June 11 Affirmation of Baptism Worship Service at 10 a.m.

SPROUT

NEXT YEAR?



Our Saturday morning program, SPROUT, has been in existence for 4 years now. SPROUT serves our neighborhood children on Saturday morning, providing them with a hot breakfast, active play in the gym, and a healthy lunch. The program officially runs from 10:00-12:00 and it is for children ages 7-12. The program is currently filled to capacity, we have 34 children enrolled and are no longer taking new participants. Despite no gym this year we continue to attract children and certainly look forward to returning to the gym next year! We run from the last week-end of September through early June. The children who come love the good food and fun play. There often is not food at home, and this gives us a chance to help and nourish our church neighbors.

We are at a turning point in this popular program, and it is time for the congregation to decide if we continue or not. It takes many volunteers to make this program run safely and successfully. We currently have a great group of volunteers, but every year lose some due to moves, going off to college and new commitments at work. We need more volunteers if we want to continue this hands-on outreach program. You sign up for a position that interests you for the following year. The schedule is made up by the end of July and distributed. You are responsible for trading with someone if you are unable to work on your scheduled day. All of the information needed is provided to you – you just show up for your designated time and do what you’ve signed up for.

Needed for 2017-2018:

- 10 people to bake 48 homemade cookies once every 5 weeks
- 5 people to grocery shop once every 5 weeks
- 5 people willing to be “kitchen captain” the week they cook, once every five weeks (9:00-11:15)
- 15 people willing to cook breakfast and make lunch once every 5 weeks (9:15-11:15)
- 10 people to set up and clean up once every 5 weeks (9:30-11:30)
- 5 people to set up and do registration once every 5 weeks (9:30-11:30)
- 5 people to register children and help pass out lunches once every 5 weeks (10:00-12:00)
- 15 people to play active games in the gym with the children once every 5 weeks (10-12:00)
- 5 individuals or families to stay on the stage while some of the less active children take some quiet time and color or play quiet games once every 5 weeks (10:00-12:00)

There will be a chart down in Luther Hall to sign your name on if you are interested in volunteering for SPROUT. If you currently volunteer and would like to continue, please be sure to sign your name on the chart down in Luther Hall so Terri is aware of your interest in continuing on OR e-mail her and let her know. If you are new, Terri Dwyer would be happy to give you any additional information. She can be reached at terri.dwyer@comcast.net or 860 521-0714. The chart will be down in Luther Hall through Easter and we will assess our commitment to SPROUT at that time.

This is a well-run, worthwhile program that has taken a lot of work to establish. Although Emanuel participates in wonderful ministries such as MANNA, Church by the Pond, etc. this and the Friday Night Program are the only two outreach ministries that we initiate and administer. If you have time to offer, please consider this worthwhile ministry. Thank you for your faithfulness in caring for all God’s children!



Altar Flowers

Flower Chart

In order to encourage people to sign up for altar flower donations, please note the **“Flower Chart” on the bulletin board near the kitchen in Luther Hall.** You may use this chart to pick a Sunday, or Sundays, when you would like to donate altar flowers.

Checks (indicating the date for flowers on the memo line) may be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate.

We hope to have flower donations for every Sunday of the year!

Thanks for your help in making our beautiful sanctuary, even more beautiful, as we worship our God.

Brighten someone’s day by taking our beautiful altar flowers to them!

Each Sunday after the late service, we try to make arrangements for the delivery of the altar flowers to our hospitalized and/or shut-in parishioners. Claudia Bellis, Brook Nowak, Ellen Anderson, Marjorie Johnson, and Rae Ann Gremel, do a great job leading our flower ministry. If you'd be willing to help on a Sunday with a delivery, please look for one of them near the Luther Hall kitchen.

You'll surely brighten someone's day!



Communion at the Rail

We did so well logistically (with only a couple of minor glitches) last month - and so many of our parishioners commented on how meaningful the experience was for them - that we’ve decided to offer the option for Communion at the Rail on the first Sunday of each month, along with Station Communion.

As always, whether we gather at the rail or at a station, in the pew or in our homes ... we gather as God’s beloved children - claimed, gathered, and sent by our Lord. Sent to carry God’s Word of comfort to a broken world - God’s amazing grace - forgiveness, mercy and love – and we serve in Jesus name!

Come to the Table! All are welcome!
Pastor Maria



Worship Team

Would you like to help
with Sunday Worship?

Here are Volunteer Opportunities

Please contact any of the ministry coordinators below:

Greeters: Eileen Mitchell,
860-688-4867 or
gemitch@comcast.net

Lectors: Lynn Sherman,
860-523-1702

Ushers: Jim Ashwell
860-667-0264

Assisting Ministers:
Janice Favreau
860-644-8315

Sound System: Mal Doyle
860-561-1582

Thank you for your service to
these important ministries.



Work continues on the new elevator
for the Parish Building!

See the Hard Hat Zone article on
page 16 for more details.



Walk with Emanuel to raise money to fight hunger and food insecurity.

Foodshare's Walk Against Hunger on Sunday, May 7, 2017.

When: Registration at 12:30 p.m., walk starts at 2:00 p.m.

Where: The Hartford, Asylum Avenue, Hartford

Contact at Emanuel: Bob Graulich, bobgraulich@comcast.net

Emanuel's Youth Group will be participating in and raising donations for this event. Let's help them make a difference!



Little Feet Grow So Fast!

For Lent, our Sunday School children are collecting new and gently used shoes for Hartford area preschoolers. Toddler sizes 5-7 and child sizes 8-10 are preferred. Thank you so much for taking care of God's littlest children in need.



Easter Candy for Sprout!

Easter candy and cellophane grass for our Sprout kids is needed by April 9. Please put your donations in the container in Luther Hall. Thank you for your generosity! The children will be so excited!



Recycling cans and bottles

We are again inviting you to bring your deposit cans & bottles to church. Our sexton, Rachid, gives these bottles and cans to people on the street who turn them in for money. So, if you typically put your deposit cans and bottles into your town's recycle bins, rather than returning them for the deposit, please consider bringing them to church for Rachid to distribute to those in need.

Remember – only cans or bottles that have deposits!

On behalf of Rachid - and all those he will help - thank you!

MANNA FOOD PANTRY

Please remember to bring in donations of food (canned, non- perishable) for the MANNA Food Pantry! We have a collection box in Luther Hall.

The food pantry always needs **jelly and boxed cereal. Currently they also need low sodium soups or canned vegetables, as well as toiletry/household items like toothpaste, soap, laundry detergent, etc.**

Thank you!

The Samaritan Fund

Did you know... that the loose offering received on the first Sunday of the month goes to the Samaritan Fund?

The Samaritan Fund is used to assist people in need.

Thank you for your generosity!



Calling All E-mail Addresses

Please be sure to keep the Church office updated with your most current email address. More and more communications are sent out through electronic means rather than paper mailings. This is especially important given the transition and call process.

If you have any questions, please contact Operations Manager Jane Wunder at 860-525-0894 x5 or jane.wunder@emanuelhartford.org Thank you.



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Meet Emanuel's Pastoral Call Committee

- Sylvana Carreon**
- Quan Jenkins**
- Elizabeth Kieschnick**
- Lee Sherman**
- Matthew Graulich Jr. - Youth Representative**
- Linnea Bloomquist - Council Representative**

- RaeAnn Gremel**
- David Kierznowski**
- Mike Nowak**

The Call Committee was announced to the congregation at the March 20 Special Transition meeting. They will begin their work in June when the Congregational Profile is approved by the Emanuel congregation and provided to the New England Synod office.

(Note: The following email references the March 19 Transition meeting and is being shared at the request of Council President Chet Brodnicki, with the permission of the sender - Becki Murphy.)

Hi Pastor Maria,

Please extend my thanks to the (Transition) committee involved in planning yesterday's meeting. I was curious how all the comments collected would be compiled and I'm pleased with the process thus far. Tabletop conversation is always interesting. I was encouraged by a comment an older member shared, "so many great ideas - ones that I've never thought about." It makes me very hopeful about the temperature for Emanuel's culture to make some changes.

I'm glad I participated in this early process and yesterday's meeting as, having been involved, I fully understand and respect the process and have confidence in the follow through.

And, I'm hopeful that somehow you and Bishop Hazelwood will realize that YOU should enter the call process! My family and I are truly thankful for the gifts you bring to Emanuel - your sermons are wonderful, you're very approachable, and you're not afraid to have tough conversations about change.

I'm not fearful of change, and I don't want my children growing up to be fearful of change either. However, I will admit that I'm at a place in my life where I find myself praying that this process could speed up - my own faith journey, my confirmation age children, etc. And, that's why I'm thankful I participated in yesterday's interactive meeting as it's a reminder as to why I need to remove speed from the equation, as speeding through this process will yield no change whatsoever - we need consensus and that'll take time.

Thank you for your leadership here at Emanuel. You always do a nice job reminding us of our gifts and our potential. As I looked around and listened to others in Luther Hall yesterday I was filled with joy for all of the genuine care people have here at Emanuel - you don't find that many places these days.

Take care, Becki

Council Highlights

February 2017

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council President Chet Brodnicki called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Pastor Hammons shared devotions. Pastor Hammons' Interim Pastor's Report was distributed and discussed. The minutes of the January 24 Council meeting were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

New Treasurer Bobbee Canfield distributed the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement for review. There was a brief discussion about the SPROUT program and the increased cost of groceries associated with increased attendance – this will be monitored to see if additional funding sources or adjustments are needed.

Audit - We are getting ready for the 2016 audit with Blum Shapiro. Council members were asked for recommendations on another Audit Committee member (someone who is not on Council nor Finance Committee).

Stewardship - A follow-up letter has been sent to parishioners who pledged last year, but not yet this year. This will be a challenging budget year.

Operations Report – Operations Manager Jane Wunder shared progress on 315 Capitol Avenue. There are two possibilities under investigation:

Discussions have continued with Hartford Preservation Alliance, a private preservation group interested in purchasing and

restoring the building for use as an owner-occupied two family residence. HPA believes they can package historic tax credits and other financing to make this option financially feasible. While Emanuel is skeptical of the feasibility and suitability of this scenario, it was agreed that we would provide HPA with a purchase price for the property so they can complete their financial assessment.

An appraisal was completed suggesting a site value of about \$50,000 (assuming removal of the house). Next step is Emanuel developing an asking price.

Conversation has also begun with Schochet Companies, owner of Capitol Towers. They continue to experience difficulties with daycare drop-off parking and with parking for their elderly tenants, and were hoping to lease some of Emanuel's parking. There was Council consensus that there are safety issues, and that Emanuel cannot spare any of its limited parking (there are fewer spaces once construction is complete).

A more workable solution would be to lease 315 Capitol Avenue to Schochet, and use the site for a new drive-through with expanded parking for Capitol Towers and the day care center. With Capitol Towers HUD and local government connections, it's more likely plans to demolish the house could proceed. This solution would allow Emanuel to continue to be a good neighbor to Capitol Towers, solves real parking/safety concerns on both sides of the fence, and improves the 315 site in a way that is maintainable in the future.

2016-17 Memorial Gifts

It is traditional at Emanuel that memorial gifts received during the calendar year are reviewed at the end of the year, and then the Pastor speaks with family members about how the gifts may be spent. Pastor Hammons suggested that we wait until late spring/early summer and then assess the funds received, and additional projects we might want to do in follow-up to the accessibility project. At that time, needs may be clearer. Council was in favor of this approach.

Pastor also proposed that, in those situations where the need for which a gift was targeted no longer exists, we ask families if they would be willing to allow the Church to use the funds in another identified way.

Sunday School Planning -

Deacon Natalie Bloomquist is on top of preliminary planning for next September, especially the first quarter, in preparation for her leaving. Natalie may leave in late summer, and the Council requested that she attend the April Council meeting so they could discuss her leaving, and thank her for her service.

Other Business -- Pastor is asking for everyone's prayers & patience as the staff size continues to get smaller, while the workload, especially during Lent, increases on each staff member.

Emanuel's Congregational Council meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 4th Thursday of each month, unless special circumstances cause us to reschedule. Emanuel parishioners are always welcome to attend Council meetings.

April

Hardhat Zone:



Accessibility: Each week brings much progress – the new restrooms and corridors have been framed and sheet-rocked, plumbing and electrical work continue, and the structural steel has been erected for the new elevator vestibule. Masons have begun building the elevator shaft (concrete block), and the vestibule walls and brick veneer will soon follow.

See Photo on page 12!

Since masonry work is temperature sensitive, the area has been enclosed and diesel-fueled temporary heaters are keeping the area warm until Spring weather cooperates! The new Otis elevator will be installed in April, and project completion is still targeted for June.

We appreciate everyone’s flexibility and patience as the construction happens all around us -- we’re more than half way there!

Tower: Contract negotiations are underway and we expect work to re-commence on the east tower (including scaffolding) early in the spring. A firm schedule will depend on Eversource’s responsiveness on the electrical transformer work that is necessary to support the new elevator. Since the transformer sits at the base of the east tower, it is likely this work must be completed *before* the tower scaffolding can be installed.



Thank You People of Emanuel!

My dear friends of Emanuel, Thank you ever so much for the lovely holiday gift plant. It was beautiful! And I was touched by your thoughtfulness.

I think of you often, especially in all the years we were growing up. Forgive me for this late note of thanks. I trust that your holidays were happy, and a Happy New Year to all of you.

Lillian Marcuson Rekas

Thank you so mch for the beautiful flowers on our 62nd anniversary. It was so nice for Rae Ann to bring them. It sure brightened up our day.

Inga & Roy Levin

Thank you for the beautiful flowers I received from you for my birthday from you. I appreciated them very much. It is nice to be remembered.

*Sincerely,
Virginia Nilson*

I want to thank my many friends at Emanuel for the handsome floral arrangement I received for my 90th birthday. I have been enjoying it since then, and want to say again, I thank you.

Ernest Wignall

To everyone at Emanuel ...

I want to say thank you for the flowers that were sent to me during my hospital stay. They were beautiful and really cheered me up.

My family wants to say thank you for all your prayers & cards for Ingrid’s passing. Again thank you for caring. May God bless you all.

Sincerely,
Burton Hedling & family



New Office Mailbox

Since our Luther Hall “tunnel” mail slots are no longer accessible, we’ve re-purposed the old suggestion box as an office mailbox. You’ll find the bright red “POST” mailbox immediately to the right of the bulletin board outside the Sunday School and Music Room.

So if you have anything you’d like to drop off for the Office, a staff member, or the Council President or Treasurer, just place it in the box. Thanks!

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| <div style="background-color: #ADD8E6; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">April 2017</h2> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 0;">+ Please note: Worship Services are at 8 & 10 a.m. unless otherwise noted.</p> </div> | | | | | | 1 10 am: SPROUT |
| 2 Worship Services + 11:30 am: Special Congregation meeting in sanctuary 11:30 a.m. First Communion Class - Music Room 11:30 Youth Group | 3 | 4 10 a.m. Crafters meet at home of Judy Johnson | 5 <i>No Staff Meeting</i> 6:00 pm: Lenten Bible Study 7 pm: Final Lenten Prayer Service, Nave (Confirmands please attend) | 6 9:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry—Shermans 10:00 am. Bible Conversation at Sherman home 10:00a Craft Painters meet at Pergandes 6:30 pm: Bell Choir | 7 | 8 10 am: SPROUT |
| 9 Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Services + Sunday School 11:30 am: Guest Barbara Shaw of Hands on Hartford will speak with us during Fellowship in LH 11:30 1st Communion Class baking bread | 10 | 11 10 a.m.: Crafters meet at home of Judy Johnson | 12 11a.m. Staff Meeting | 13 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl Ministry at Shermans 10 am: "Bible Conversation" at Sherman home 10:00a Craft Painters meet at Pergandes 6:30 pm: Bell Choir 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service | 14 7:00 pm Good Friday Service | 15 10 am: SPROUT |
| 16 <i>He is Risen!</i> <i>Alleluia!</i> EASTER SUNDAY Celebratory Services of Holy Communion at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. No Sunday School | 17 Easter Monday - Office closed. <div style="background-color: #E0E0E0; padding: 2px;">Deadline for "God With Us"</div> | 18 10 a.m. Crafters meet at home of Judy Johnson <i>No Exec</i> | 19 <i>No Staff Meeting</i> | 20 9:30a Prayer Shawl 10a Bible Conversation (Please note: this week both groups meet at the home of Abby Stadlander) 10:00a Craft Painters meet at Pergandes 6:30 pm: Bell Choir | 21 <div style="border: 2px solid #0000FF; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Deacon Natalie, Pastor Maria, and Confirmands at Camp Calumet Friday through Sunday</div> | 22 10 am: SPROUT |
| 23 Worship Services + Sunday School 11:30 Youth Group <hr/> 30 ONE SERVICE SUNDAY 10a Worship Service with Baptism | 24 | 25 10 a.m. Crafters meet at home of Judy Johnson 6:30 Exec 7:00 Council | 26 11 am Staff Meeting 7 p.m. Confirmation (Music Room) | 27 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl 10 am: "Bible Conversation" at Sherman home 10:00a Craft Painters meet at Pergandes 6:30 pm: Bell Choir | 28 7pm Special Transition Meeting with Associate to Bishop Pr. Paul Sinnott re: CAT | 29 No Sprout 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Special Meeting with Pr. Sinnott re: CAT/Profile Workshop Lunch Served |

**Serving in
April**

Acolyte and Crucifer

April 2

Acolyte: Matthew Anderson
Crucifer: Maya Johnson

April 9 - Palm/Passion Sunday

Acolyte: Delanie Halstead
Crucifer: Andre Montoya

April 16 - Easter Sunday

9:00 a.m.

Acolyte: Lizzy Arcand
Crucifer: Maddie Arcand

11:00 a.m.

Acolyte: Addison Fastiggi
Crucifer: Ellie Protulis

April 23

Acolyte: Sam Johnson
Crucifer: Griffin Fairchild

April 30

Acolyte: Charles Sinche
Crucifer: Meredith Swanson

Altar Flowers

April 2 Pastor Hammons
April 9 Open
April 16 *Special Easter Plants*
April 23 Open
April 30 Rae Ann Gremmel

Assisting Ministers

April 2 Brook Nowak
April 9 Alan Meeds
April 16 Monica Swanson
April 23 Lynne Strecker
April 30 Mal Doyle

Children's Library

April 2 Diane Troutman
April 9 Carol Dennler
April 16 Easter— closed
April 23 tbd
April 30 tbd

Communion Preparers

April 2 Bobbee Canfield
April 9 Val & Craig McDonald
April 13 *Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m.*
Rae Ann Gremmel
Marjorie Johnson
April 16 9a Marjorie Johnson
11a Bobbee Canfield
April 23 Lynne Strecker
April 30 Jane Wunder

Greeters

April 2 Fairchild family
April 9 B. Swanson family
April 16 - Easter Sunday
9a Glenna Brodnicki
11a Farquhar family
April 23 Abby Stadtlander
Robin Nelson
April 30 Lee & Lynn Sherman

Lectors - 8:00 a.m. (except 4/16)

April 2 Monique Jennings
April 9 Randy Olson
April 16, 9 a.m. Kathy Haller
April 23 Kathy Haller
April 30 *No 8 a.m. Service*

Lectors - 10:00 a.m. (except 4/16)

April 2 Janice Favreau
April 9 Elizabeth Kieschnick
April 16, 11 a.m. Celia Allison
April 23 Glenna Brodnicki
April 30 Jeff Potter

Sound and Recording

April 2 Eric Carlson
April 9 Mal Doyle
April 16 Jeff Potter
April 23 Noah Fairchild
April 30 Rhiannon Kiersznowski

Sunday School Aide Schedule

April 2

PreK-Kindergarten: Lindsey Anderson
Grades 1 and 2: Griffin Fairchild
Grades 3 and 4: Meredith Swanson

April 9

PreK-Kindergarten: Maire Hollertz
Grades 1 and 2: Matt Graulich
Grades 3 and 4: Trey Hazard

April 16 *Easter Sunday - no class*

April 23

It is especially important that the Aides are present to serve this day. I will be at Calumet with the Confirmation youth and unable to help the teachers.

PreK-Kindergarten: Samantha Johnson
Grades 1 and 2: Luke Johnson
Grades 3 and 4: Rhiannon Kiersznowski

April 30

PreK-Kindergarten: Lindsey Anderson
Grades 1 and 2: Matt Graulich
Grades 3 and 4: Trey Hazard

Ushers

8:00 a.m. *tbd*
10:00 a.m. Michael Coons (Captain)
Jim Ashwell, Celine Coons,
Russ Bjorklund, Gary Bloomquist

**Thank you for serving in these
very important ministries!**

LOOKING AHEAD – BE SURE TO SAVE THESE DATES!

- April 2** Special Congregation Meeting in Sanctuary
First Communion Class

- April 9** Palm/Passion Sunday Services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Barbara Shaw, Director Hands on Hartford - Visit with congregation at Fellowship
First Communion Class - Baking Bread

- April 13** First Communion Celebration at Maundy Thursday Service at 7 p.m.

- April 14** Good Friday Service at 7 p.m.

- April 16** Easter Sunday!

- April 28** **Special Congregational Transition Meeting with Pastor Sinnott - CAT results**
- April 29** **Special Congregational Transition Meeting with Pastor Sinnott - Congregation Profile**

2017 Easter Plant Order Form

\$18.00 each - Deadline is Sunday, April 9, 2017

Please make checks out to Emanuel Lutheran Church & note "Easter Plants" on memo line

In Honor/Memory of:

Given by:

Person responsible for payment:

Emanuel Altar Flowers — \$45.00

Please use the form below for a flower donation and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Thank you.

In Honor/Memory of: _____

Today's Date: _____

Given by: _____

Date for Flowers: _____

Phone Number: _____

Questions? Call the Church Office 860-525-0894

God With Us

Emanuel Lutheran Church

311 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, CT 06106

Address Service Requested

Periodical

Postage Paid at Hartford, CT



Growing in Faith Together.

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Opposite the State Capitol Grounds

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Maria J. Hammons, Interim Pastor

Church Office: 860-525-0894

Fax: 860-246-3720

Sunday Worship Schedule

Sunday Services of Holy Communion:

8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

April 16 - Easter Sunday Services at 9 & 11 a.m.

April 30 - One Service Sunday at 10 a.m.

Sunday School

**Sunday School begins after the Children's Message
at the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service**