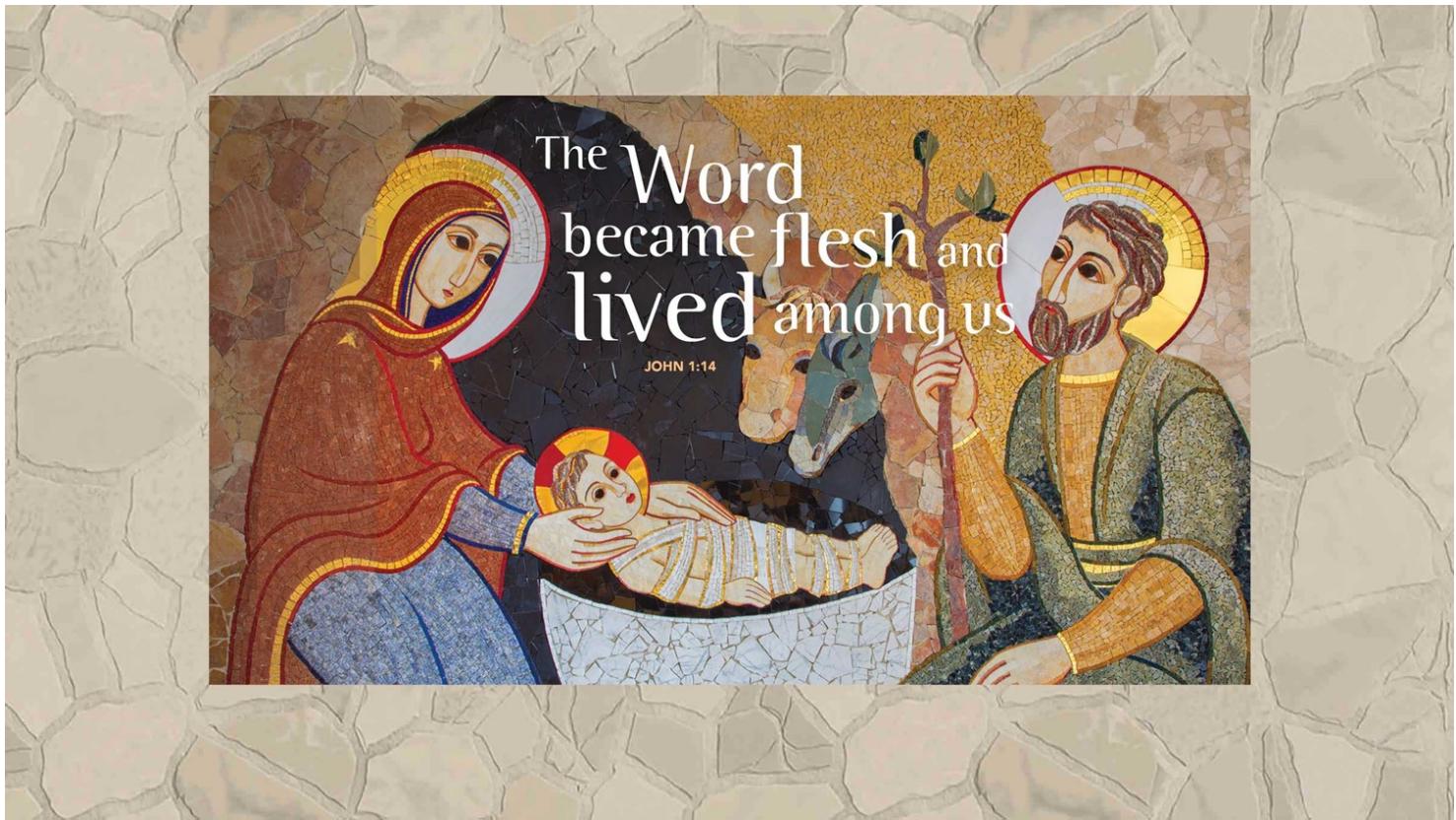


God With Us

The Newsletter of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Hartford

EMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Growing in Faith Together.



Sundays In December

December 3

1st Sunday of Advent

Services at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Communion at the rail
Sunday School

Mark 13:24-37

December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent

Services at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School

Mark 1:1-8

December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

Services at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School

John 1:6-8,19-28

December 24

4th Sunday of Advent

Service at 10:00 a.m.
No Sunday School

Luke 1:26-38



Christmas Eve

Services at 5:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.
No Services on Christmas Day

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

December 31

First Sunday of Christmas

Services at 10:00 a.m.
1st Night Service at 5:00 p.m.
No Sunday School

Luke 2:22-40

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GOD WITH US (USPS 174-740)

is published monthly by Emanuel Lutheran Church, 311 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106. Periodicals postage paid at Hartford, CT.

Postmaster: send address changes to God With Us, 311 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106

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From the Pastor...

As I write this December article for God With Us, I am sitting in an inn in Bethlehem, where there was room, having just returned from the Church of the Nativity, where I experienced what the hustling and bustling of Bethlehem may have been like that first Christmas while waiting in line to see the site of the manger. Thankfully, I was neither pregnant nor on a donkey (although the donkey may have made people move aside in the line.)

On the one hand, I know it seems odd for a pastor who has only been at a parish for a matter of days to take off on a pilgrimage like this, but as I said in the last God With Us , this was planned well over a year ago, and I was upfront about it in the call process.

On the other hand, I believe this is the perfect way for me to begin my time here at Emanuel, because it signifies how I approach ministry and I think embodies one of the reasons that the Call Committee forwarded my name to the council back in August.

I believe two of the gifts I bring to parish ministry are a groundedness in the Word of God and a strong commitment to love and serve our neighbors across the street and across the world.

This trip has given me an incredible chance to experience the world of the Old and New Testament, as we've seen the Temple Wall, the tombs of Abraham and Sarah, and all of the major places mentioned in the story of Jesus that took place around Jerusalem.

I know tomorrow, as we head to Galilee for three days, it will become an even more rich experience. Seeing the topography really transforms how I will see and interpret the Word of God. As someone who loves Bible Study, I suspect this will give me new insights that I hope to share, both in Bible Study (which will begin on Thursday, Nov 30 at 10 am.) and in proclamation.

But even more than that, it has given me a new insight into the situation in Palestine and Israel, as well the role that the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land, our global partners as well as the New England Synod's Companion Synod, play in this region.

One of the reasons I am on this trip is because it isn't a typical "Holy Land Pilgrimage." I had always wanted to visit, but last year, I was telling my friend, Pastor Kari Henkelmann Keyl, who is leading the trip with her husband, Tim, that I didn't want to take "just any trip." I wanted to be able to learn from the people and really

get a good picture of what was happening from a socio-political angle. She immediately told me that she and Tim were leading just such a trip--one that focused on accompaniment. What that means is that I am not just seeing the Biblical sites and doing what one of our presenters called "Running Where Jesus Walked," but also taking time to hear the voices of the people who live here.

We have visited every church in the ELCJHC and spoken to all of the pastors, the bishop, and an ELCA missionary. We have spent time in the schools the Lutheran church sponsors--including a university and a wildlife education center. We have heard their stories about the pain and suffering they are experiencing as Palestinian Christians, and about what is happening in the occupied territories.

Our trip has included conversations with Human Rights Observers, a cooking class in a refugee camp run by a woman who is raising funds to help provide education for differently abled children, and a meal in a woman's home. We are hearing the cries of our brothers and sisters across the world who are pleading with us to learn more about what they go through on a daily basis.

The refrain that I keep hearing is "Palestinian Christians and Muslims get along. We don't hate the Jews. We want to share. But we want to be able to worship freely, move freely, have opportunity for jobs, have water, and be treated with dignity." As Leila, the woman who cooked our meal in her home said "What you want for yourselves, you should want for me."

During the months ahead, I will be sharing the stories I heard, and help all of us to gain a deeper appreciation for these very first Christians who trace their heritage back to the first disciples, and learn how we can become more connected with them through our prayers and support.

I am sorry I had to leave in my first weeks at Emanuel, but as I am hoping to be here for a long time, I suspect the fruits of this pilgrimage will impact all of us as we journey together in faith.

Peace, Pastor Paula

Pastor Elizabeth Krentz-Wee joins Emanuel as its Visitation Pastor

I am so glad to be able to be Emanuel's Visitation Pastor for the next 12 months. I am a recently retired pastor from New England, and this is probably my dream job. I love to sit and hear your stories, sharing words of Scripture and prayer.

I grew up in the Lutheran Church -Missouri Synod on the seminary campus in St. Louis where my father, Edgar Krentz, was a professor of New Testament. After I attended Harvard-Radcliffe and Yale Divinity School. I was ordained in 1984, and served LCA and ELCA churches in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

I was married for almost 34 years to Sam Wee before he died from cancer in 2012. My son Adam is an accountant in Miami; he and his wife Sarah are expecting their second child in January. My daughter Rebecca is in her third year of graduate studies in nuclear engineering at U.C. Berkeley. She is an active member of the Lutheran Chapel there.

I am working part-time, about 10 hours a week. My focus is on visits with the senior members of Emanuel who are unable to come to church regularly, whether homebound or in a nursing home.

Even people who cannot get to church on their own can lead busy lives! I spend a few hours making phone calls to plan visits. Some of you will be ready to have me come right away; others want to talk on the phone, if a visit "this week or next" is not convenient. My calendar extends weeks and months into the future, so if you know you would like me to come in 3-4 weeks, we can set that date now.

My visits will always include the offer of a service of Holy Communion, including Confession, Word, and prayer before the Meal.

Because I come from a church music family, I do bring my hymnal. I love to take requests. Music reaches so deeply in all of us. How many of us can instantly think of a hymn that brings tears to our eyes? In my first two weeks, I have sung "How great thou are," "Children of

the Heavenly Father," "For all the saints," and "Beautiful Savior". As we move now into Advent, I hope to be singing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" soon.

Are you a close friend or family, and want to receive Communion with someone I am visiting? You are welcome to join us. In my very first congregation, a group of men would come in Advent and Lent to join a 92 year old man, Martin Johnson, so that he could experience church fellowship at home.

We are looking at starting up the senior lunches in 2018. Look for an announcement after the New Year.

I will not ordinarily be preaching or leading worship on Sundays. I will continue to be a supply pastor for Northwest Connecticut, and fill in for Pastor Paula when she is away. My first Sunday when

she is away will be on December 31, 2017. I also am on call when Pastor Paula is away, so will have the emergency pastoral care cell phone at those times, and plan to make hospital visits as needed in crisis.

Pastor Elizabeth



Pastor Elizabeth can be reached by calling the Church Office 860-525-0894 extension 3. She checks her voice mail regularly and will get back to you. Alternatively, you can email her at:

PastorElizabeth@emanuelhartford.org.

Would you like to help with Sunday Worship?

Please contact our ministry coordinators:

Greeters:	Eileen Mitchell	860-688-4867 or gemitch@comcast.net
Lectors:	Lynn Sherman	860-523-1702
Ushers:	Jim Ashwell	860-667-0264
Asst Ministers:	Janice Favreau	860-978-1681
Sound & Recording:	Mal Doyle	860-561-1582



Worship Ministry for December

Acolytes (A) & Crucifers (C)

December 3	(A)	Aron Kiehne
	(C)	Megan Murphy
December 10	(A)	Libby Karim
	(C)	Matthew Anderson
December 17	(A)	Harrison Arcand
	(C)	Griffin Fairchild
December 24	(A)	TBD
Morning	(C)	TBD
December 24	(A)	TBD
Evening	(C)	TBD
December 31	(A)	Mebret Farquhar
	(C)	Delanie Halstead

Aides

December 3	PreK-K	Maire Hollertz
	1st & 2nd	Lizzy Arcand
	3rd & 4th	Luke Johnson
December 10	PreK-K	Lindsey Anderson
	1st & 2nd	Hannah Karim
	3rd & 4th	Charles Sinche
December 17	PreK-K	Lindsey Anderson
	1st & 2nd	Hannah Karim
	3rd & 4th	Meredith Swanson
December 24		<i>Children Stay in Worship</i>
December 31		<i>Children Stay in Worship</i>

Assisting Ministers

December 3	Alan Meeds
December 10	Mal Doyle
December 17	Janice Favreau
December 24	Lynne Strecker
December 31	Mal Doyle

Communion Preparers

December 3	Bobbee Canfield
December 10	Val and Craig McDonald
December 17	Jeannette Urban
December 24	Marjorie Johnson and Rae Ann Gremel
December 31	Eileen Mitchell

Greeters

December 3	Lois House & Terri Dwyer
December 10	Lynn & Lee Sherman
December 17	A.J. Caldwell & Eleanor Doyle
December 24	Terri & Walter Dwyer (10 am) TBD (5 pm) Dr. Craig & Valerie McDonald (11 pm)
December 31	TBD

Lectors

<u>8:00 a.m.</u>
December 3 Randy Olson
December 10 Sarah Strecker
December 17 Christine Dalton
December 24 no 8:00 am Service
December 31 no 8:00 am Service

10:00 a.m.

December 3	Janice Favreau
December 10	Chris Bellis
December 17	Nancy Gray
December 24	Jeff Potter
December 31	Lynn Sherman

December 24—Christmas Eve

5:00 PM	Lee Sherman
11:00 PM	Kathy Haller & Janice Favreau

Sound & Recording

December 3	Noah Fairchild
December 10	Rhiannon Kiersnowski
December 17	Lindsey Anderson
December 24	Lizzy Arcand
December 31	Noah Fairchild

2017 Council Members

• Chet Brodnicki, President	chetglenna@comcast.net, Home: 860-236-3050
• Mark Hollertz, Vice President	mark.hollertz@virtus.com
• Bobbee Canfield, Treasurer	bobbeecanfield@comcast.net
• Mindy Olson, Secretary	olson.mindy@gmail.com
• James Flanders, Exec., At Large	jimflanders04@gmail.com
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• Sarah Parmelee	sarahparmelee@gmail.com
• Deepak Pedada	deepak.pedada@gmail.com
• Gary Troutman	trouty13@juno.com

October 2017 Council Meeting

Council President Chet Brodnicki called the meeting to order and greeted everyone with an enthusiastic welcome to Pastor Mehmel at her first Emanuel Council meeting. Pastor led devotions that included Council members sharing their favorite Bible story or verse. The September 2017 Council minutes were accepted as noted.

Senior Pastor's Report

Upon arrival, Pastor Paula attended the Bishop's Convocation. She felt an incredible sense of acceptance and welcome by the New England Synod. Pastor's installation will be held on Epiphany, January 6th. In January she will begin Mission and Ministry meetings. These meetings will also include discussion of conflict resolution, and how healthy communication and transparency are elements critical to the growth of Emanuel. Members are encouraged to go directly to Pastor with any concerns.

A top priority at church is visitation ministry. At Convocation, Pastor Paula connected with a highly regarded NES pastor looking to serve in the Visitation Pastor capacity on a part time basis. The Visitation

Pastor could also serve for emergency coverage and supply. (Update -- We are thrilled that Pastor Elizabeth Krentz-Wee has accepted the part time position as Emanuel's Visitation Pastor, and is already calling/visiting our homebound members. Thanks be to God!)

Treasurer's Report

Bobbee Canfield presented the Treasurer's Report, Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Report. Council reviewed and discussed the challenges this year with pledging and income. Expenses are still looking good but cash flow has required transfers from endowment. It was also reported that a very generous gift has just been received unexpectedly as part of the regular offering. Pastor will visit the donor to extend our deep thanks and to discuss any specific intentions for the gift. Council discussed using this gift towards regular ministry/operational expenses as well as to help support the Visitation Pastor position.

Operations Report

Jane Wunder reported that the Accessibility project has only a few outstanding items. The final accounting will begin shortly. At our Hungerford Street building, the contractor received the approval to go ahead with lead-

September 2017 Council Meeting (continued)

based paint abatement on the third floor. Timing and logistics are in progress. The gymnasium is being fully used -- besides our own SPROUT and FNP programs, a group of local business men play ball on Wednesday nights, and the CT Buccaneers run their basketball program for local 8-9 year olds on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons. Additionally, conversations are in progress with UCONN basketball players regarding connecting with our programs.

Finance Report

Finance report: Finance Chair Tim Elwell is scheduling a meeting with the Colony Group (Emanuel's investment manager) to address the Council regarding fiduciary responsibility and to meet with Finance regarding investment performance. Our investment accounts gained 3.1% for the quarter (ending Sept. 30) and 10.7% year to date. Performance has been good.

Youth Group Report

Youth Group: Mark Hollertz and Melissa Johnson reported on the National Youth Gathering in Houston in June 2018 and fundraising efforts being planned. The annual food packaging event is set for Nov 5th -- the goal is to package 25,000 meals. Other organizations,

including the Muslim Center, will come and help us pack.

AED Task Force Report

AED Task Force - A task force of Joy Elwell, Sarah Parmelee and Mindy Olson will explore the costs and procedures for having AEDs at church for emergencies.

Emanuel's Council Meetings

Council meets on the 4th Tuesday of most months, in Luther Hall at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend regular meetings of the Council. If you would like to come to address the Council on a particular matter, please contact Council President Chet Brodnicki.

Update from Emanuel's Financial Secretary Lee Sherman

November and now December are Emanuel's "stewardship pledging" months. This year, with the excitement of our new senior pastor beginning ministry at Emanuel along with the good ministries already happening (like SPROUT, Friday Night Program, Harvest Holly crafters, youth, Lucia, Prayer Shawl and food packaging), we pray that members will be inspired to make a commitment of time, talent, and treasure for 2018. **Your financial commitment is essential to this congregation.** Every gift is important and appreciated. Each gift truly makes a difference.

As we approach the close of 2017, here's how our income looks:

- ◆ 2017 Planned Giving/Pledges: \$485,000
- ◆ Received thru mid-November: \$438,250
- ◆ A very generous unrestricted gift of \$90,000 received in October is cause for great thanksgiving – and is providing significant one-time support to Emanuel's 2017 operations and ministries.

- ◆ Needed over the remaining 7 weeks: \$46,750, which is about \$1,000 more per week than the average weekly giving in October.

It's important to understand that the above number for pledge income represents only two thirds of our income budget. In 2017 and again in 2018, we must depend on our endowments for about one third of the income needed to support the operating budget. This amount, over \$250,000, represents about the maximum that can be transferred from Emanuel's endowments based on sound financial practice and donor restrictions (many individual accounts have specific restrictions on how they may be used. Emanuel is using its endowments wisely and fully to support ongoing expenses, but it also requires the financial support of members through annual pledging and faith-based giving.

If you have any questions about Emanuel's income, please contact Financial Secretary Lee Sherman at tarheelee@comcast.net or 860-523-1702. Thank you!



Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

For those who are struggling with illness or other challenges:

Tom LaPointe † Carol Johnson † Dick Johnson † Reverend Ken West
Elaine Wilson † Judy Johnson † Kathryn LaPointe † Joan Feldmann
Doris Barron † Pamela Vigil † Betty Lois Benson
Eliana † Tatiana † Vincent †

*If you would like to add or remove a name from our congregational prayer list,
please let the Church Office know, or fill out a blue form on the back usher's table.*



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form
Cost: \$18.00 each
Deadline is December 15, 2017

In Honor/Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Phone number: _____

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

All Saints Sunday—November 5, 2017

On All Saints Sunday we remembered all those from our Church who have passed away in the last year. As each name was read, the bell in the Steeple was rung.

<i>†</i> Edith T. Johnson	November 12, 2016
<i>†</i> Carol O. Gilnite	December 14, 2016
<i>†</i> Nancy C. Smith	December 28, 2016
<i>†</i> Ward W. Wiltse	January 24, 2017
<i>†</i> Dorothy Bloomquist	January 25, 2017
<i>†</i> Richard Erickson	January 28, 2017
<i>†</i> Walter O. Ekwall	February 4, 2017
<i>†</i> Arnold Hanson	February 7, 2017
<i>†</i> Ingrid J. Hedling	February 14, 2017
<i>†</i> Elisabeth A. Rydinge	April 29, 2017
<i>†</i> Donald J. Acker	May 17, 2017
<i>†</i> Arline J. Olson	May 27, 2017
<i>†</i> Bernard R. Johnson	May 29, 2017
<i>†</i> Diane L. Roule	July 9, 2017
<i>†</i> Rose E. Dooley	July 11, 2017
<i>†</i> Vera A. Bjorklund	September 13, 2017



Later in the Service, as Sarah sang Pie Jesus the congregation was invited to come forward and light a candle in memory of a loved one who has passed into the communion of saints in life eternal or remain in the pew and pray silently.

St. Lucia Festival

On Friday, December 1, 2017 the people of Emanuel Lutheran Church will present its 104th Annual St. Lucia Festival. There will be two performances, one at 5:00 p.m. and the second at 8:00 p.m. Admission, at the door is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children.



2017 Lucia Cast - Photo by Patty Swanson.

Children's Library News

Once again it is time to highlight some of our wonderful Christmas books. New to our collection this year is What the Shepherd Saw. A man sets out late at night to borrow live coals to kindle a fire for his wife who has just given birth. Since it is late, everyone is asleep and nobody answers his plea. He finally comes upon a cruel shepherd who is perplexed when his 3 dogs, despite attacking the man, are unable to harm him, his sheep do not wake up when the man walks on their backs and his spear takes a sharp turn when thrown at the man. He becomes more confused when the man can pick up the hot coals without being burnt. Out of curiosity, he follows the man home and is moved by what he sees. He offers the man a soft sheepskin to keep the baby warm and his heart is opened to the glory of God.

A favorite book to many is Humphrey's First Christmas. Humphrey is a grumpy camel who is hungry, tired and cold. He cannot figure out why men who are supposed to be wise are bringing gifts to

a baby that they do not know. Is he ever able to figure that out?

There are also several Christmas books featuring The Berenstain Bears. Classes will be visiting the library this month to check out books from our wonderful collection.

We still have summer books that have not been returned and we ask that you once again check your bookshelves and return books to us. Thank you. We wish every one of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Sprout!

Please put these dates on your calendar and remember that you are responsible for finding a replacement if you are unable to attend on your assigned date. Please email Terri Dwyer at terri.dwyer@comcast.net if you have switched with someone. When Terri sends out the weekly reminder she will include them.

- December 2 Group 1
- December 9 Group 2
- December 16 Group 3
- December 23 CLOSED
- December 30 CLOSED

If there's accumulating snow, we are closed. If the weather is iffy, please check your email. Terry will send an email to everyone as soon as she knows if it is necessary to close. Terri sometimes make that decision Thursday or Friday so it's before

Confirmation News

The Confirmation students are collecting new, warm hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for the SPROUT children. They will have a bin to collect donations from the congregation in Luther Hall on Nov. 12, 19 and 26. They are looking for items for boys and girls ages 7-teens (sizes child M and L and adult).

Confirmation

There are always handmade prayer shawls available for anyone in need of this symbol of love and caring. Please speak to Lynn Sherman, Eileen Mitchell, or call the Church Office (860-525-0894)

If you would like to help knit prayer shawls, please join us each Thursday morning at 9:30 A.M.. in the Lounge.

MANNA Food Pantry

Remember to bring in your donations for the MANNA Food Pantry! A collection box is in Luther Hall.

Food pantry needs: jelly, boxed cereal, low sodium soups or canned vegetables, as well as toiletry/household items like toothpaste, soap, detergent, etc. Pet food is always needed



ELC Youth Group Fundraiser For Gathering in Houston

The ELC Youth Group is having a fund raiser of themed gift baskets. You may view the baskets in Luther Hall and purchase tickets for them during coffee hour on the Sunday December 3rd, December 10th and December 17th.



The drawing for the winners will take place in Luther Hall on Sunday December 17th after the 10:00 a.m. Service. The holder of a winning ticket does not need to be present.

Tickets are \$4.00 a piece or six for \$20.00. All proceeds

help support the ELC Youth Group.

Here are the **Gift Baskets** that we already have.

- ◆ Movie Night basket *donated by the Murphy family*
- ◆ Lutheran Vineyard basket *donated by the Hollertz family*
- ◆ Kitty Heaven basket *donated by Roland & Judy Johnson*
- ◆ Coffee Shop basket *donated by the Sinche family*
- ◆ Chocolate Delight basket *donated by the McDonald family*
- ◆ Spring Time basket *donated by the Emmons family*
- ◆ Chef's Basket *donated by Celine Bailey Coons*
- ◆ Puzzle Game basket *donated by Diane Cecere*
- ◆ The Cat's Meow basket *donated by Mal Doyle*
- ◆ Dog-Gone Good basket *donated by Eleanor Doyle*
- ◆ A Visit to Grandma & Grandpa's basket *donated by Valerie Hansen*
- ◆ Taste of Asia basket *donated by Susan & John Franzis*
- ◆ A Chocolate Lovers Dream basket *donated by Hansen family*
- ◆ LEGO® Creator Star Wars basket *donated by Janice Farrean*



Food Packaging Event at Emanuel

On November 5, groups from the Hartford Spanish Church, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Simsbury and the Farmington Muslim Center joined us to package meals for Hands on Hartford. The results..113 cases containing 4,068 packages of either Minestrone Soup or Mac and Cheese meals or 24,408 meals. Thanks to everyone's efforts 3,178 pounds of food were provided to Hands on Hartford's Food Pantry.



Emanuel Hosts Manna Meal on October 31, 2017

The people of Emanuel fed approximately 120 people on October 31. Volunteers baked 10 casseroles and 10 dozen cupcakes, and helped serve meals from 5-7 pm..



Craft Corner News

What do you think of the new location for the annual Fair? I thought it was really nice. Lots of light. Big windows. High ceilings. Elevator. Expanded coffee shop. Lots of good stuff.

We did a lot more advertising this year in the newspapers. New people visited the Fair. This is a good thing also. From the comments and conversation, everyone loved the Fair.

The income from the Fair was just about \$7,000. We are looking forward to the Lucia reception which will feature craft items - some new and some additional income. We will meet in late February to discuss "money

matters". The group did purchase 20 new long tables, 8 new card tables and a new Christmas tree for the gym.

Thank you to Jane, John and Rachid for making our jobs easier. We appreciate the help. Thanks also to those of you who made things at home. The variety is what makes our Fair so special. This, too, is appreciated.

The Tuesday and Thursday craft groups are planning on meeting at church on Tuesdays after the holidays in our new craft room next to the Youth Room...watch for further news and plan to join us.



Friday Night Program

One of our long running outreach programs is the Friday Night Program. This program provides a structured and supervised opportunity for the neighborhood youths to get together and enjoy friendly games of basketball. The Friday Night Program is held on most Friday evenings during the school year from 3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

In order to be successful the program needs at least two volunteers each Friday for the 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. time slots. While we



have the minimum number of volunteers through December 15th we still need volunteers for December 22nd and December 29th. If you are interested please contact either Chet Brodnicki or Judy Johnson.



Blessed Celebrations!

Special Emanuel Birthdays (80 and older) during December

Elaine Krause (December 6), Karin Stetson (December 10),
Marjorie Acker (December 13), Inger Swanson (December 14),
Eleanor Olson (December 18)



Special Anniversaries (Married for 50 or more years) during December

Elaine and Lanard Krause were married on December 15, 1956

With Heartfelt Thanks! ... from Pastor Maria

I want to thank everyone who planned, set-up, cleaned-up, cooked, and participated in my wonderful “farewell” brunch! The food was delicious, and the conversation was delightful.

My only regret is that I didn't have a chance to spend time with everyone there. There was so much I wanted to say to each of you – to thank you for ...

- ◆ opening yourselves up to this transition journey even if you were reluctant sometimes
- ◆ trusting me to lead you, challenge you, walk with you, and care for you ...
- ◆ sharing your God-given gifts with me, with the congregation, with the community...

- ◆ and, most importantly, for allowing the Holy Spirit to work within and among you, and lead you to a vision of the future that takes Emanuel into the community and into the world, as the hands, feet, and voices of Jesus! I will be watching as you live into the incredible potential you have been given and make a faith-filled difference in Hartford and beyond!

Finally, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generous, thoughtful, and meaningful gifts on my farewell Sunday. I will cherish them all more than you know.

*Always... prayers for the journey!
Pastor Maria*

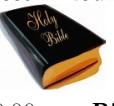
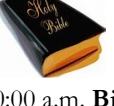
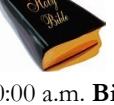
CT Buccaneers and Emanuel

A few weeks ago we were approached by the CT Buccaneers with a request to use Emanuel's basketball court for their “Basketball and Education Program”. After learning more about their program and confirming that they met the requirements to use our facilities we agreed to work with them and are allowing them to use the basketball court on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays. It is also interesting to note that one of their leaders used to participate in our Friday Night Program. He is now out in the community helping the young people of Hartford.

The mission of the CT Buccaneers is to “make a positive impact in the lives of our youth through basketball. Our focus is teaching our players the game by improving their fundamental skills, and guiding them to reach their highest potential as an individual as well as a teammate. We help players understand that basketball is a game made up of individuals but played as a team, working to accomplish a shared goal. They will learn to demonstrate good sportsmanship in support of each other in every endeavor and to show the same to their opponents on and off the court.

We will support each player in reaching their full potential by providing them the tools necessary to be successful. We build each player's confidence so they will strive to excel, and not make excuses. To prepare our players for the pressures of life on and off the court, we will provide an intense, competitive and supportive environment which focuses on self-improvement and self-awareness. We know what it takes to get a young person to maximize his/her potential. Our program has built a reputation on teaching young players the importance of hard work in a practice setting and in the classroom.”.

Their goals are “to help our players aspire for a collegiate education through academics and basketball.. To enable each player to excel to their highest potential in both basketball and school.. To guide our youth to become productive citizens and make positive impacts in their communities for their generation and for generations to come. To ensure each player will excel as person and student athlete, through a game that we all love, BASKETBALL.”

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2017</h1> <p>Sunday Worship Services are at 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.</p>						
3 1st Sunday of Advent Worship Services at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. <i>Communion at the Rail</i> 	4	5 5:00 p.m. Finance/Budget Committee	6	7 9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry meet in Lounge  10:00 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Paula	8  3:30-9:00 pm Friday Night Program	9 Sprout! 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon
10 2nd Sunday of Advent Worship Services at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. 	11		13	14 9:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry meet in Lounge  10:00 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Paula	15  3:30-9:00 pm Friday Night Program Deadline for January <i>God With Us</i> Content	16 Sprout! 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon
17 3rd Sunday of Advent Worship Services at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. 	18	19	20	21 9:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry meet in Lounge January <i>God With Us</i> Mailed	22  3:30-9:00 pm Friday Night Program—Volunteers Needed	23 No Sprout!
24 4th Sunday of Advent Worship Service at 10 a.m. Christmas Eve Worship Services at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. No Sunday School	25 Christmas Day 	26 Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28  10:00 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Paula <i>Church Office Closed</i>	29  3:30-9:00 pm Friday Night Program—Volunteers Needed <i>Church Office Closed</i>	30 No Sprout!
31 1st Sunday of Christmas Worship Service at 10 a.m. 1st Night Service at 5:00 p.m. No Sunday School						

God With Us

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Hartford, CT 06106

Address Service Requested

Periodical

Postage Paid at Hartford, CT



Growing in Faith Together.

Emanuel Lutheran Church

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Dr. Paula V. Mehmel, Pastor

Church Office: 860-525-0894