

God With Us

The Newsletter of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Hartford



SPECIAL MEETING

of the
Congregation on
Sunday, February 12
following the 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service

*In the event of a snow cancellation,
this meeting will be held on Feb. 26.*

The purpose of this meeting is:

1. To act on a recommendation from Council and the Finance Committee to allocate additional funds for completing the repair work on the East Tower.
2. To act on the recommendation from Council and the Finance Committee to allocate funds to support specific smaller projects in the 2017 Capital Plan.
3. To receive an update on construction progress for the Accessibility Project.

Please mark your calendars for this special meeting focusing on Emanuel's capital projects. It is vitally important that Emanuel members be part of the discussions and voting on these items.

Please note: There will be no 8:00 a.m. service on February 12 as we hope all parishioners will join in worship and then participate in this important discussion and vote.

Caring for Our Church in 2017



SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY



February 5 -
*The Centurion and the
Widow's Son*
Services of Holy Communion
at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

February 12 -
*John the Baptist -
More than Prophet*
Service of Holy Communion
at 10:00 a.m., Special Meeting of
the Congregation to follow the
service.

February 19 -
Forgiven at Jesus' Feet
Services of Holy Communion
at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

February 26 - *Transfiguration*
Services of Holy Communion
at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
*Pre-Shrove Tuesday Pancake
Brunch after 10:00 a.m. Service.*

ASH WEDNESDAY Service of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes



March 1, 2017
Service at 7:00 p.m.

*Please note: due to the lack of
parking available on weekdays,
we are unable to offer a mid-day
Ash Wednesday Service.*

We are truly sorry.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

On Sunday, February 26 the Youth Group will be holding a **Pre-Shrove Tuesday Pancake Brunch for the congregation** after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. **All are invited!**

Tentative 2017 Schedule
2/11 & 2/12; 2/28; 3/3-3/5 OR 3/10-3/12; 3/26; 4/9; 4/23; 5/7; 5/21;
Connecticut Trails Day Saturday 6/3;
and Tuesday 6/13 – End of School
Family Potluck Dinner in Luther Hall



For more information
or if you have questions,
please contact Lance Hansen
(lance.hansen.ct@gmail.com)
or call/text 860-882-9632.

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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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Emanuel Lutheran Church Staff

Office Telephone: 860-525-0894
Office FAX: 860-246-3720

Maria J. Hammons

Interim Pastor
pastormhammons@gmail.com

John J. Marschhausen

Visitation Pastor: (860-402-8734)
therevjm@me.com

Natalie Bloomquist, A.I.M.,

Director of Christian Education
Natalie.Bloomquist
@emanuelhartford.org

Jonathan Reuning-Scherer,

Director of Music
jonathan.rs@emanuelhartford.org

Jane Wunder, Operations Manager
jane.wunder@emanuelhartford.org

Karen Rudewicz,

Administrative Assistant
office@emanuelhartford.org

Rachid Chelali, Sexton

**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. . .

**Faith in Action. . .
The “Cross”-over between
Church and State**

*The Lord has told you, O mortal,
what is good; and what does the
LORD require of you, but to do
justice, and to love kindness, and
to walk humbly with your God?
(Micah 6:8)*

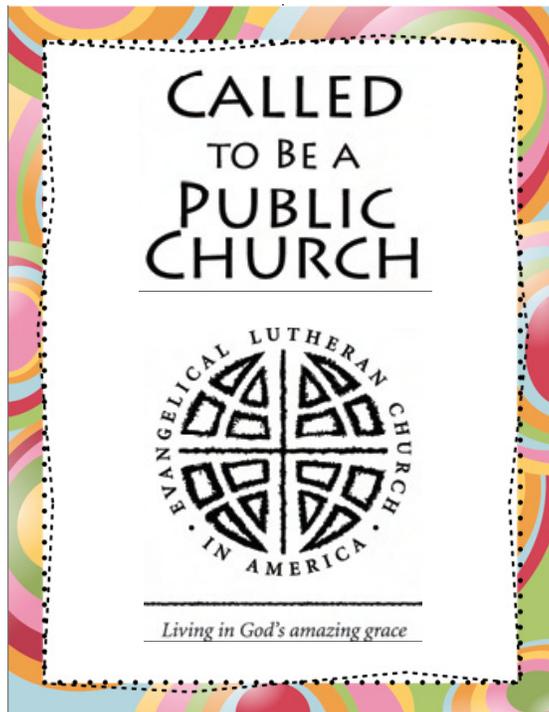
Ok. . .so, like many of you, my
husband Danny and I have been
watching the build up to the
inauguration of the new President.
We’ve been listening to the
journalists, and reading about the
Cabinet candidates. It kind of makes
your head spin. I’m thinking
it might be time to re-read the
book *God’s Politics* –an excellent work by Sojourner’s
author Jim Wallis – just to refocus.

Given we’re in the midst of a contentious and very
important time in our country politically, it seems like an
appropriate time to be thinking about how we are called
to be a “public church.” — In other words, how we’re
called to put our faith into action. . .even in politics!

Former Presiding Bishop Hanson put it this way. . .

***As a public church called to witness to God’s love for all
God has created, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America (ELCA) affirms the importance of participation
in society by all people, including people of faith. The
ELCA social statement, “The Church in Society: A
Lutheran Perspective,” which guides our public speech
and ethical actions, commits us to “work with and on
behalf of the poor, the powerless, and those who suffer,
using [this church’s] power and influence with political
and economic decision-making bodies to develop and
advocate policies that seek to advance justice, peace
and the care of creation.***

***Scripture reveals God’s presence in all realms of life,
including political life. This church understands
government as a means through which God can work to
preserve creation and build a more peaceful and just
social order in a sinful world. The electoral process is one
way in which we live out our affirmation of baptism to
“serve all people, following the example of our Lord
Jesus,” and “to strive for justice and peace in all the
earth.”***



As people of faith, we are called to
be advocates for those who don’t
have the ability or opportunity to
influence public policy in the same
way that we do. In other words,
this is the Church’s call to the
Ministry of Advocacy!

What exactly do we mean by
advocacy? It’s simple really.
Advocacy is about embracing a
cause that we believe in and
representing the interest of those
less fortunate - those who are
unable to fight for themselves -
people in need in our
congregation, our community,
and around the world.

The ELCA lists the following as its
first principle of this important
ministry. . .“**Advocacy** is public

witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ where the church
speaks. . .on behalf of others in need, articulating
positions consistent with our faith.”

Some people may say that, while they accept the
importance of this goal and the need to advocate for
those who are less fortunate, they’re not clear on why
the Church needs to be involved.

Why is **advocacy** considered to be a ministry of the
Church? Good question - and the response is key to our
understanding our God-given call to mission in the world.
So let’s take a look at how the **Ministry of Advocacy** is
grounded in Scripture. . .

First it’s important for us to realize that God’s call to
advocacy didn’t begin with the Christian Church. Hebrew
Scriptures of the *Old Testament* contain numerous
examples of individuals being chosen to be advocates for
God’s people or to deliver God’s message to the people,
calling them to work for justice. Here are a couple of
examples. . .

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Exodus 3 | God sends a reluctant Moses as an
advocate to Pharaoh to intercede for the
people’s freedom. . .“Let my people go!” |
| Psalm 82 | God tells us to give justice to the weak;
to maintain the right of the destitute;
to rescue the needy and deliver them from
the wicked. |

(Continued on next page)

Faith in Action. . . The “Cross”-over between Church and State (*Continued*)

So what about the *New Testament*? What do the Gospels and the early Christians have to say about **advocacy**? Again, just a couple of examples. . .

Matthew 25 Jesus tells us that when we feed the hungry, welcome a stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit those in prison. . .that it is the same as if we are doing it for Him.

1 John 3 Here we are challenged. . .we’re asked how it could be possible for God’s love to abide in anyone who sees another in need and yet refuses help? We are also instructed! We are told to love. . .not only in word or speech, but in truth and action. . .

God clearly calls us to work for justice for those in need. The **Ministry of Advocacy** is grounded in Scripture!

So how do we **advocate**? Well, there are many ways... but the one we’re focused on here is by being an informed citizen. Informed not only about the issues and

our personal thoughts and preferences - but about how our faith “speaks” to those issues. What does the gospel of Jesus Christ have to say about the various issues that we’re being asked to consider?

The answers are not always easy, or clear, or straight forward, which is why - as people of faith - we need to study God’s Word, pray for God’s guidance, and talk with one another as a community of faith.

And as we also pray for God’s guidance for our elected officials, we pray for God’s strength to advocate in Jesus’ name for all those in need!

With prayers for justice and peace for all people!

Salaam! Shalom! God’s Peace!
Pastor Maria

God’s Politics: A New Vision for Faith and Politics in America, Jim Wallis, HarperSanFrancisco, 2005.

Excerpt from *Called To Be A Public Church: 2008 ELCA Voting and Civic Participation Guide*.



First Communion

**First Communion classes will begin soon!
Children will receive their First Communion on
Maundy Thursday (April 13) of Holy Week.**

If you are wondering what the guidelines are for children to receive their First Communion – this note is for you!

First Communion at Emanuel is generally offered to children 8 years old, or older. **However**, 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 by phone on 860-525-0894 x11, or by email at pastormhammons@gmail.com.

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:14

Transition Process Worship & Music Survey

A small group of parishioners involved in the worship and music life of the congregation IS working to put together a survey of just a few questions, in order to get input from the congregation regarding our worship and music life together. The survey should be coming out sometime in February, so this is just a heads-up so you can begin thinking about our worship together and what you might want to share with the survey team.



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

Please be kind to our elder 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! Blessings!



Transition Together

Dear Friends in Christ. . .

Our transition journey continues! Small group meetings have begun, and more are scheduled. Please see the “Transition Small Group Dates” article for more details.

The goal of these small group transition meetings is to provide informal opportunities for Emanuel’s parishioners to share their hopes and dreams, as well as their fears and concerns, about the future of the Emanuel congregation. Small groups allow us to have more in depth conversation. It also provides a space for those who hesitate to share in a larger group setting.

This is an especially important conversation to have during our transition journey. And the reality is that the more of you who actively participate, the better idea we will have of who Emanuel is called to be as a faith community - today and for the future. 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 as a congregation? If we are able to “dream” in that way – it will help define your identity as a congregation, and what your faithful purpose is in the world. It will also help you call a pastor who shares your vision and mission goals, understands your challenges, and compliments your gifts.

Please join us for these small group conversations. Make sure you have a voice in the process.

Trusting God to lead us!

With prayers for the journey!
Pastor Hammons

**I know not the way God leads me,
but well do I know my Guide.**
~Martin Luther

Transition Small Group Dates Come share your dreams for Emanuel!

We’ve already held three small group meetings, and the conversations have been meaningful and insightful. I want to thank those long-time members who attended the first group meeting on Sunday, January 15, after our Worship Service; the parents of the confirmation group who met with me on Wednesday evening, January 17, and the group who gathered at the Brodnicki’s on the evening of Wednesday, January 25 (*thanks to Glenna & Chet for their hospitality!*). All of these conversations were insightful and helpful, and we even had some fun.

I hope you will be able to make time to join in on one of these informal conversations – to share your hopes and dreams, as well as any concerns or fears you might have for the future of your beloved congregation Emanuel!

Some small group meetings have been scheduled for February, which you can see in the list below. More will be scheduled. Please let me know if you have a particular group that would like to meet together – and we can look at possible dates and times that might work. There’s room for a couple of more in February – and early March.

Peace on the journey!
Pastor Maria

Future Small Group Transition Meetings (Note: all are weather permitting)

Feb 5, Sunday:

9:00 – 9:55 a.m.-
especially for 8 a.m. Worship Service attendees
(we can continue the conversation on another Sunday morning if we run out of time)

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. - open to all, in Luther Hall

February 16, Thursday - 10 a.m.-Noon –
especially for Thursday morning Bible Study group
at the home of Lee and Lynn Sherman

February 26, Sunday - 2:30-4:30 p.m. -
meeting at Becki and Peter Murphy’s home



Many thanks to all of you who sent Christmas greetings and pictures. We've been away with family and grandchildren, since mid-December when the twins were born. We are just now, mid – January, catching up with our mail. We are grateful for our years with you and appreciate your taking time to remember us. Here's a photo taken at Alex and Amanda's home, with their daughter and newborn baby girls. God's blessing and peace for this new year!

Love,
Pastor and Deborah

Bible Readings

For the Month of February

**February 5 -
The Centurion and
the Widow's Son**
Luke 7:1-17

**February 12 - John the Baptist -
More than Prophet**
Luke 7:18-35

**February 19 -
Forgiven at Jesus' Feet**
Luke 7:36-50

February 26 - Transfiguration
Luke 9:28-36

Birthdays and Anniversaries are noted each month for persons who are:

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

Special Emanuel Birthdays During February!

- Betty-Lois Benson - February 19
- Marjorie Johnson - February 19
- Elinor McCue - February 19
- Lillian Rekas - February 20
- Virginia Nilson - February 22
- Harlan Pergande - February 22

Special Emanuel Anniversaries During February!

- Karin and Kenneth Stetson - February 19, 62nd
- Elinor and Wesley Ertelt - February 20, 52nd
- Ans and Robert Swanson - February 22, 55th

2017 Church Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS	Email Address
BRODNICKI, CHET, President 59 Arnoldale Road, West Hartford, 06119 Home: 860-236-3050	chetglenna@comcast.net
HOLLERTZ, MARK, Vice President 23 Avalon Road, West Hartford, 06119	mark.hollertz@virtus.com
ELWELL, TIM, Treasurer 214 High Wood Dr., South Glastonbury 06073	tim.m.elwell@gmail.com
OLSON, MINDY, Secretary 35 Hungerford St., Hartford, 06106	olson.mindy@gmail.com
CANFIELD, BOBBEE, Member at Large 621 Fern St., West Hartford, 06107	bobbeecanfield@comcast.net
BLOOMQUIST, LINNEA 24 Fennbrook Rd., 1 st Fl., West Hartford, 06119	linnea.bloomquist@gmail.com
CARLSON, ERIC 15 Jensen Road, West Hartford, 06117	carlsoneric Sven@gmail.com
FELDMANN, JOAN 442 Willard Avenue, Apt. A-1 Newington, 06111	jkrf38@att.net
FLANDERS, JAMES 30 Auburn Road, West Hartford, 06119	jimflanders04@gmail.com
FULMER, JACOB 16 Frederick Rd., West Hartford, 06119	fulmerfred@gmail.com
MURPHY, PETER 27 Glenbrook Road, West Hartford, 06107	pjmurphy27@yahoo.com
PEDADA, DEEPAK 100 Wells St., Apt. 619, Hartford, 06103	Deepak.Pedada@gmail.com
TROUTMAN, GARY 28 Prospect St., Glastonbury, 06033	trouty13@juno.com

Communion at the Rail

Recently, it was brought to my attention that there are parishioners who find it especially meaningful to receive communion at the rail, and miss having that option available at the 10:00 a.m. Service (*the 8:00 a.m. Service regularly receives communion at the rail*). I respect that spiritual need and want to try to honor your desire to be “fed” in this way. As a result, I am working with the Altar Guild to offer communion at the rail on occasional Sundays, beginning March 5. It may take us some time to work out the logistics – among ushers, assisting ministers, communion assistants, musicians, and pastor. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Because we are concerned about those who may have some difficulty navigating the steps up to the altar rail, we are going to offer both communion at the rail and “station communion” from the bottom of the steps as we do now. As always,



will also continue to bring communion to parishioners in the pew as it is needed.

How we commune as the body of Christ is more than *logistics* - it has meaning. We come together down the center aisle to receive

the Lord’s Supper - *gathered* “as the Church.” Then, having been fed and strengthened in this Holy Meal, we depart by the side aisles - *sent* into the world to be “witnesses to these things.” The idea is that this *journey* - this *gathering and sending* - is continuous. Christians of all times and all places continuously gathering for worship and being sent into the world with God’s mission.

So whether we gather at the rail or at a station, in the pew or in our homes - we are Jesus’ 21st century disciples - claimed, gathered, and sent. We carry God’s Word to a broken world - the Good News of God’s amazing grace - forgiveness, mercy and love!

Come to the Table. All are welcome!
Pastor Maria

Members and Friends in our Prayers:

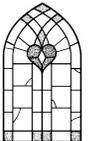
Walter Ekwall † The Donini family
Elaine Wilson † Inge & Roy Levin
Betty-Lois Benson † Diane Roule
Judy Johnson † Deedee Lewis
Bob Bridgett † Rose Dooley
Emerrene Bailey † Carla Petry
Richard Erickson † Elinor McCue
Dr. Daniel McMenamin
Dominick DeMartino † Geof Hale
Gloria Burke † Ingrid Hedling
Lauren & Steve † Eric Hammons
George Leaphart and family

† God’s comfort and consolation to the family of Luis Rodriquez who passed away on January 16, 2017. Luis is the father of sisters Beth and Dallas Rodriquez of Emanuel.

† God’s comfort and consolation to the family of Lilly McComb who died on January 19, 2017. Lilly is the mother of Diane Durant of Emanuel and the sister of Carol Dennler and Roland Johnson of Emanuel.

In Memoriam

Emanuel Brother-in-Christ, Ward "Hop" Wiltse died on Tuesday, January 24, 2017.



May the comfort and hope of the resurrection be with the family and friends of this saint.

Join the Usher Team! No Experience Necessary!

We are looking for a few new members to join our four usher teams. Each of these four teams will serve for a total of 3 months per year. With our existing, experienced team members, new ushers will find serving to be easy. Ushers greet and seat folks arriving for a worship service, provide the bulletins, collect the offering, provide assistance with wheelchairs or walkers, hand out crayons for the younger ones, keep communion logistics flowing smoothly, and help keep a watchful eye on our entrances. Consider this ministry – and help make Emanuel welcoming for all who attend our services. Please speak with Jim Ashwell or Bob Graulich to learn more.



Ushers Needed!

Please remember to bring in donations of food (canned, non- perishable) for the MANNA Food Pantry! We have a collection box in Luther Hall. Spaghetti sauce, toiletries and pet food are all especially needed.

Thanks!

BY NATALIE BLOOMQUIST

SPARK Lessons in February:

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

Our first three lessons of the month do not match the Narrative Lectionary story we will hear in worship, but are lessons from Bible stories with complementary themes.

February 5: Ten Men Healed. There are many healing stories in the Bible. In this story, ten men who had leprosy were hiding. People in Jesus' time were not nice to people who were sick with leprosy. Jesus felt sad for the men. As he walked by, one of the men asked Jesus, "Can you heal us?" Yes, Jesus could heal them! One of the men knew that Jesus was able to heal them because Jesus was the Son of God. He was so happy he just had to go to Jesus to thank him and shout praises to God! Luke 17:11-19

February 12: Jesus the Word. John the Baptist helped people understand who Jesus was. He said, "Jesus was sent to be God's Word! He knows everything God wants to tell us! Jesus will bring truth and grace to everyone on earth!" Jesus was sent for us today, too, and that is good news that we can be very happy about. John 1:10-18

February 19: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector. A Pharisee, a special kind of leader in Jesus' time, thought he didn't need God's help to be a person who loves and helps other people. He thought he was pretty great. But a tax collector, someone who in Jesus' time took too much money from people so he could have more money for himself, felt very sorry for what he did and prayed to God, asking for God's help to do what was right.

Jesus told the people that the tax collector, not the Pharisee, was the one who understood how God wants us to pray. We don't need to brag. God already knows what is in our hearts and is happy to hear from us. We can always ask God to give us the daily help we need. Luke 18:9-14

February 26: Transfiguration. In this story, which brings together important Old and New Testament characters, Jesus shows us God's love in a very amazing way. Peter, James, and John climbed a high mountain with Jesus. At the top, Jesus' face and clothes were very bright and they saw Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah about God's promise to save the world. And then they heard God's voice say, "This is my Son. Listen to him." Wow – what do you think it would have been like to be on that mountain?
Luke 9:28-36

Prayer for the Month:

Dear God, thank you for loving us so much! Help us remember that you want us to talk to you, to tell you about all the things we are happy or sad about, ask you for the help we need each day, ask for healing when someone is sick, and thank you for all the blessings in our lives. Thank you for always listening! In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Third Grade Families

- Third graders will receive their First Communion during Maundy Thursday worship on April 13.
- First Communion Preparation classes will be Sundays March 26 and April 2 from 11:30 to 12:30.
- We will bake bread for Maundy Thursday Holy Communion on Sunday, April 9 at 11:30. This will also be make-up time for anyone unable to attend one of the classes.

Recycling cans and bottles

While the Youth Group no longer collects cans and bottles for recycling, we are again inviting you to bring your deposit cans and bottles to church. Our sexton, Rachid, gives these bottles and cans to people on the street who then turn them in for money. So, if you typically put your deposit cans and bottles into your town's recycle bins, rather than return them for the deposit, consider bringing them to church for Rachid to distribute to those in need.

Remember – only cans or bottles that have deposits!

On Sunday mornings starting in late February, there will be a bin for can/bottle contributions at the Luther Hall entrance.

On behalf of Rachid, thank you!

New Babies!

Congratulations and God's blessings to the Corgan family! Twin baby girls were born to Amanda & Alex Corgan on December 19, 2016 -- Nora Anne and Lena Marguerite. The girls, Mom, big sister, Ella, and Dad are all doing very well... (so are Grandpa John and Grandma Debbie)!

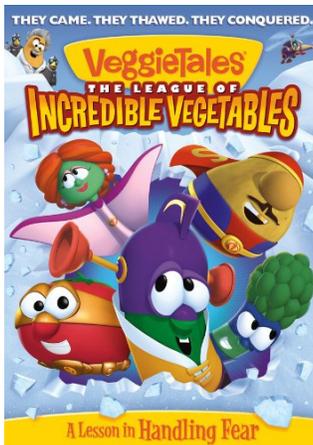
"Thursday Bible Conversation" meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Lynn and Lee Sherman.

Sunday School is held in the Music Room.

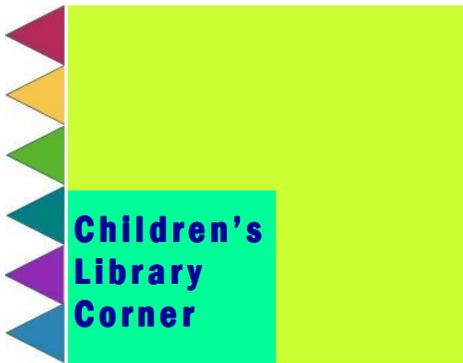
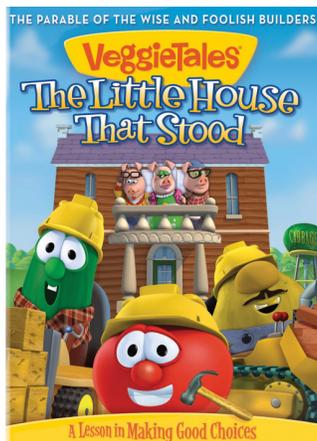
Children's Library News

Our collection of Veggie Tale DVDs is as popular as ever. This month we will highlight 3 more new additions.

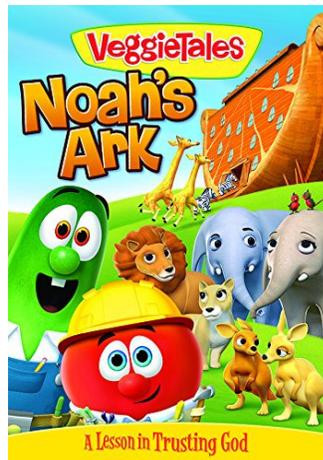
Handling fear is the theme of "The League of Incredible Vegetables." Dr. Flurry comes to Bumblyburg and wants to freeze the city in fear. Larry Boy turns to the League of Incredible Vegetables for help but they find their own fears put them in danger of entering the deep freeze. Hopefully they will remember to turn to God, who is bigger than all of their fears, for help.



"The Little House That Stood" teaches the importance of making good choices. Three Little Pigs arrive in Cabbageville to build new houses. They meet with 3 builders, 1 builder with a plan and 2 builders without plans. Larry builds with hay, Mr. Lunt with brick, but only Bob builds on a firm foundation. They learn the lesson that if they follow God's plan, they can stand firm when storms come.



Our last new addition is "Noah's Ark." Accompanied by a zoo full of animals, Noah and his family embark on an orange slice ark. After 40 day and nights, they are all ready to jump ship since their faith has been fully tested. Will they remember to trust God's promises? This is a wonderful Veggie Tale retelling of a favorite Bible story.



Though the story is not new, we now also have the DVD version of "Rack, Shack, & Benny." This was popular in our video version and is a lesson in handling peer pressure.

Craft NEWS

Just for you!

Time does go by quickly! It is the time of the year that crafters get "itchy" and wonder about the next Fair. With that in mind - here goes.

First of all, thank you all who made last year's Fair so successful. There was a concern about how we were going to fit everything into Luther Hall. It was as beautiful as it has been on the past. Lots of visitors and familiar faces were there and commented on the Fair and Emanuel. Our profits were over \$6,000 and as is the custom, the crafters will meet and disburse the funds.

New news: the crafters will meet at my home in Newington on TUESDAYS AT TEN beginning on February 21. The Thursday craft group, now called the "Craft Painters" are also making arrangements for meetings.

If anyone is retired or at home and is interested in joining us, please call me at 860-953-3064 or email at rjmetts@sbcglobal.net. We welcome all newcomers and new ideas! If you would like to work at home, please let me know.

Check out the newsletter calendar. Reminder: the date of the 2017 Fair will be October 28. Mark your calendars at home. How do you think it will be in the gym? Think about what we can add to our Fair. Lots of space to fill.

Judy Johnson

PS: Are there any wood cutters out there that could help?



**Confirmation Youth and Parent
Dates remaining for 2016-2017**

February 1	Youth and Parent Gathering
February 15	Youth and Parent Gathering
March 1	Attend Ash Wednesday Worship
March 8	*Lent
March 15	*Lent
March 22	*Lent
March 29	*Lent
April 5	*Lent
April 13	Attend Maundy Thursday Worship
April 14	Attend Good Friday Worship
April 21-23	Confirmation Retreat at Camp Calumet in New Hampshire
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

**WONDERING “WEATHER”
THERE’S CHURCH???**



In case of bad weather, the cancellation of Emanuel’s Sunday services and other congregation activities will be available on our Emanuel Facebook page, on CBS Radio, and on the following TV channels: NBC, WFSB, and WTNH.

Please remember. . .if there is a parking ban in Hartford there will be no Worship Services or activities held at the Church.

8:00 a.m. Worship attendees!

Remember. . .

if there is snow on the ground or it’s snowing when you wake up, there will be no 8:00 a.m. Service.

And finally,

If Hartford City and/or State Government Offices are closed, the church offices will also be closed.

This is especially important this year with the construction projects and limited parking situation – so please check before you come!

God Bless and Be Safe!



A New Office Mailbox

Now that our Luther Hall “tunnel” mail slots are no longer accessible, we’ve re-purposed the old suggestion box into an office mailbox. You’ll find the bright red “POST” mailbox on the wall immediately to the right of the big bulletin board outside the music/Sunday School classroom. So if you have anything you’d like to drop off for the Office, any staff member, Council president or treasurer, just place it in the box. Thanks!



Clearly, the purpose of wealth is not security. The purpose of wealth is reckless generosity, the kind that sings of the lavish love of God, the kind that rekindles hope on dark days, the kind that reminds us that God is with us always.

—Theologian, Joan Chittister

We've Gone Green!

As Christians, we are called to be good stewards – which includes taking care of God's creation. As part of our stewardship journey here at Emanuel, we have gone green with the Church "God with Us" newsletter. **Beginning in January**, the newsletter was forwarded electronically to anyone for whom the church office currently has an email address.

While we encourage everyone who uses email to give this new distribution process a try (we promise it is very easy and user friendly), we also realize not everyone has internet capability. The office will still provide paper copies of the newsletter for those who do not have internet capability. These copies will be available at entrances outside of the sanctuary on the last Sunday of each month, for the following month's newsletter.

Please note: Paper copies will continue to be mailed to all homebound members, unless they notify the church office that they use the internet and prefer to get their newsletter by email.

Now those of us who regularly get our world news online, can also get our church news that way. You won't have to go to the website to get it – it will come to you as a pdf attachment to your email, and you will just have to click and read! How easy is that! And it will even be in **COLOR!**

Please consider joining the effort to **go green** with Emanuel's newsletter.

*God's peace!
Pastor Maria*

There may be glitches as we make this change - so please let us know if you didn't receive the newsletter at all.

Calling All E-mail Addresses

Please be sure to keep the parish office updated with your most current email address. More and more communications are sent out through electronic means rather than paper mailings. If you have any questions, please contact Karen at office@emanuelhartford.org. Thank you.

Note: If you prefer to receive *God With Us* at a different email address, please let the office know. Thanks for your patience as we make this transition!

Large print worship bulletins are available each Sunday morning. Please let an usher know if you would like one.

Stewardship 2017

Abundance

Our Stewardship theme is **Abundance**. We are focusing on God's abundant love for all of us and how we can share our individual resources of time, talent, and treasure as reflections of His love here at Emanuel and in the world around us both locally and globally.

The Stewardship campaign is ongoing and we will be happy to receive your pledge for 2017. Please either mail it to the church office using the envelope provided in the back of the church or put it in the offering plate.

The Stewardship Team thanks you for all you do and will do in support of Emanuel's work in God's world.

Volunteer Opportunities on Sundays

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the 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.



The Samaritan Fund

Just to remind you, 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.

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 members. Claudia Bellis, Brook Nowak, Marjorie Johnson, Ellen Anderson, and Rae Ann Gremel do a great job with 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. Thanks. You'll surely brighten someone's day!

February's Hardhat Zone:



Tower: The east tower entrance has been open since early December when restoration work was halted for the winter and all scaffolding was removed. The newly restored masonry, as yet without the final finish coatings, has been carefully protected from winter weather with waterproof sheeting. Work will take 2-3 months to finish in the spring and will include replacement of the large segments adjacent to the corners, final repointing, and sealants and coatings. The new 350 pound masonry segments are being cast off site during the winter. New scaffolding, to enable the hoisting and setting of these heavier stones, will be installed in the spring when work resumes. Unfortunately, this unexpected scope of work will have significant cost implications; it is, however, quantifiable and our contractors are submitting “not to exceed” pricing for the remaining work. Additional funding needs will be presented at the special congregation meeting on Feb. 12 to review and approve our 2017 capital projects and funding needs.

Accessibility: Work has been progressing at a steady pace this past month. Hazardous material

abatement and demolition of the interior spaces (walls, old restrooms, ceiling, flooring, the vault, stairs) are now complete. Rough plumbing has been installed for the new restrooms, the electrical service is being upgraded for the elevator, and excavation for the foundation is complete. (Check out the photos in Luther Hall for a glimpse of the world behind the construction doors!)

With the foundation excavation creating a sizable “moat” at the rear parish door, contractors will be using the Luther Hall door for entry – so bear with us as this entrance shows some wear and tear (and mud)!



While we’ve run into a few surprises, overall the project is progressing well and with continued mild winter weather, we’ll be celebrating our new space in June! We continue to appreciate everyone’s flexibility and patience as the construction happens all around us!

“Christ in our Home”

Be sure to look in the back of the Nave and in Luther Hall on Sundays. There you will find the January, February, March complimentary issue of *Christ in our Home*, a wonderful devotional booklet that offers daily opportunities for reflection and prayer. Each day provides a short Bible text with a brief, thoughtful message and a simple prayer.

Did You Know?

...that there is an easy way to make your offerings. **You can set up your weekly or monthly offerings to be paid by Online Banking.**



Just list Emanuel Lutheran Church as the payee in your online checking *Bill Pay*, enter the amount of your offering, and the date you want the payment sent. Use your envelope offering number as your account number for your bill. You can even set this up as a recurring payment to make your contributions easier. Check with your bank to make sure there are no fees associated – and then just set it and forget it!

If you have any questions about how it works – talk with Pastor Maria. This is how she gives her offering to Emanuel.



Emanuel Lutheran,

Thank you for the lovely flowers we received for our anniversary.

Lanny and Elaine Krause

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 7

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5 pm: Accessibility/ Building Committee 7 pm: Confirmation Youth and Parent Gathering	2 10 am: "Bible Conversation" meets at the home of Lee and Lynn Sherman 6:30 pm: Bell Choir	3	4 10 am: SPROUT
5 Services of Holy Communion at 8 and 10 a.m. Sunday School 9 - 9:55 am: Small Group Meeting 11:30 - 1:30 pm: Small Group Meeting 11:30 am: Sunday School Teacher Meeting	6	7	8 11:00 am: Staff Meeting	9 10 am: "Bible Conversation" meets at the home of Lee and Lynn Sherman 6:30 pm: Bell Choir	10	11 10 am: SPROUT
12 Service of Holy Communion at 10:00 am, followed by a Special Meeting of the Congregation Sunday School	13	14	15 11:00 am: Staff Meeting 7 pm: Confirmation Youth and Parent Gathering Deadline for "God With Us"	16 10 am: "Bible Conversation" and Small Group Meeting at the home of Lee and Lynn Sherman 6:30 pm: Bell Choir	17	18 10 am: SPROUT
19 Services of Holy Communion at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Sunday School	20 Church Office closed in observance of Presidents' Day	21 10 am: Tuesday Crafters at the home of Judy Johnson 7 pm: Executive Committee Meeting	22 11:00 am: Staff Meeting	23 10 am: "Bible Conversation" meets at the home of Lee and Lynn Sherman 6:30 pm: Bell Choir	24	25 10 am: SPROUT
26 Services of Holy Communion at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Sunday School After the service: Pre-Shrove Tuesday Pancake Brunch	27	28 10 am: Tuesday Crafters at the home of Judy Johnson 7 pm: Church Council Meeting				

**Serving in
February**

Acolyte and Crucifer

Feb. 5

Acolyte: Andre Montoya
Crucifer: Harrison Arcand

Feb. 12

Acolyte: Sam Johnson
Crucifer: Gavin Emmons

Feb. 19

Acolyte: Griffin Fairchild
Crucifer: Megan Murphy

Feb. 26

Acolyte: Hannah Karim
Crucifer: Charles Sinche

Altar Flowers

Feb. 5

Open

Feb. 12

In memory of
Laura Tibbo and
In honor of the birth
of her great-
granddaughter,
Brynlee Ann Mattie,
given by Ellen
Anderson

Feb. 19

Open

Feb. 26

Open

Assisting Ministers

Feb. 5 Janice Favreau

Feb. 12 Mal Doyle

Feb. 19 Alan Meeds

Feb. 26 Lynne Strecker

Children's Library

Feb. 5 TBD

Feb. 12 TBD

Feb. 19 TBD

Feb. 26 TBD

Coffee Hour

Feb. 5 TBD

Feb. 12 TBD

Feb. 19 TBD

Feb. 26 Pre-Shrove Tuesday Brunch
hosted by Emanuel's Youth Group

Communion Preparers

Feb. 5 Lynne Strecker

Feb. 12 Craig and Val McDonald

Feb. 19 Marjorie Johnson

Feb. 26 Bobbee Canfield

Greeters

Feb. 5 Jacob and Natalie Fulmer
Tyson and Blair

Feb. 12 The Murphy family

Feb. 19 Andy and Nancy Gray

Feb. 26 Lorraine McCann

Lectors - 8:00 a.m.

Feb. 5 Randy Olson

Feb. 12 Kathy Haller

Feb. 19 Kathy Haller

Feb. 26 Bob Vojtek

Lectors - 10:00 a.m.

Feb. 5 Janice Favreau

Feb. 12 Chris Bellis

Feb. 19 Jeff Potter

Feb. 26 Monica Swanson

Sound and Recording

Feb. 5 Mal Doyle

Feb. 12 Eric Carlson

Feb. 19 Lindsey Anderson

Feb. 26 Jeff Potter

Sunday School Aide Schedule

Feb. 5

PreK-Kindergarten: Maire Hollertz
Grades 1 and 2: Griffin Fairchild
Grades 3 and 4:
Rhiannon Kiersznowski

Feb. 12

PreK-Kindergarten:
Lindsay Anderson
Grades 1 and 2: Luke Johnson
Grades 3 and 4: Trey Hazard

Feb. 19:

PreK-Kindergarten:
Samantha Johnson
Grades 1 and 2: Matthew Graulich
Grades 3 and 4: Meredith Swanson

Feb. 26:

PreK-Kindergarten: Maire Hollertz
Grades 1 and 2: Griffin Fairchild
Grades 3 and 4:
Rhiannon Kiersznowski

Ushers

8:00 a.m. Ron Lindlauf

10:00 a.m. Alan Anderson,
Captain
Bruce Cutler,
Gary Johanson,
Ken Swanson

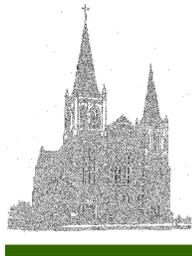
The Flower Chart

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 with the form from the blue sheet. We hope to have flower donations for every Sunday of the year!

Thanks for your help.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

Please remember, there are always prayer shawls available for anyone in need of this symbol of love and caring. Speak to Lynn Sherman, Eileen Mitchell, or Karen in the church office.



Bright Lights in the Darkest of Days

by John Starkes

“The year 1930 has been marked by bad conditions, not only in our beloved country, but in the world at large. A severe business depression has prevailed throughout the year throwing millions of people out of work and causing untold distress and misery,” the words of our Pastor Hulteen. And in the following year, he wrote: “1931 has furrowed the face of humanity with its anguish and cares which seem to have grown increasingly worse. During this year, even more than before, the world has been out of balance; its leaders struggling desperately to right the situation seem to be helpless against the destructive forces at work.”

As we continue to read through the pages we know that our city of Hartford may not have been among the darkest spots of the country, but it still suffered unemployment and great needs as had never been experienced before.

Few of Emanuel now could recall the fact that our pastor also suffered in a double whammy as he convalesced from an illness likened

to polio that held him in the hospital for many months and then confined him to the parsonage for many more as he gained back his health and ability to walk. He likened his experience to that of the nation’s President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, some years later who led the country at war from his confinement of a wheelchair.

But while Pastor grew stronger at the start of the new year, 1932, the situation for Emanuel Lutheran grew worse as the bank that held our accounts was forced to close. His letter to our trustees of this emergency urged them to stand shoulder to shoulder with their experience to guide us; his prayer, “God grant that the new year may bring brighter days for each one of you and for our dear church.”

After spending time at the Connecticut shore during the summer Pastor returned to the pulpit in September, strengthened to preach, cane in hand.

But 1932 proved yet worse, “truly terrifying,” wrote Hulteen; nations adding tariffs to trade, suspicions causing some to increase armaments in spite of poverty to the taxpayer. Nations refused to pay even interest on debts to the United States as some declared a state of bankruptcy. And yet a new threat to all that was still good in the human

hope as Communist propaganda of the Soviet Republic posed threat to other countries and their Christian religion, their goal to eliminate it.

But I titled this article in part, “Bright Lights,” for the members and staff of Emanuel shined brighter than ever as their Spirit held again as in its historic past. And our record reads, “Commitment to mission did not waver, the life of Emanuel remained strong and effective, its programs necessarily adapted to reconcile with the maelstrom of the times.”

The staff self-imposed salary reductions along with Pastor, who also paid for all the costs of pastors who took his place during his illness. The men did the repairs, the ladies cooked meals to serve the community in need; their organizations paid for and covered expenses and needs of the church and its members. And the Swedish Relief Society worked with the Community Chest to help those suffering in the difficult times; bright lights we shall look at more closely next time.

*Source – God With Us—1889-1989, by Norma Westlund Sandberg

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.

***(Please note: On February 12 we will have
only one service at 10:00 a.m., to be
followed by a Special Congregational Meeting)***

Sunday School

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