

I have been in the process of moving for the past four months.

It began the day I returned to North Dakota after being called by Emanuel in September. I had less than 3 weeks to pack up the home I had lived in for over 24

years, while wrapping up my interim call. Every night I would spend four to five hours packing, tossing and sorting.

By the time I left, I had packed up a good deal of stuff, which I left in North Dakota, and loaded my car with the items that I felt were most important for my first few months in Connecticut. It was an interesting process--deciding what I needed most. I opted for clothes, my Christmas decorations so it would feel like home for my boys over the holidays, my tools, a few kitchen items, key books, and anything that movers wouldn't transport (which

meant a lot of wine.)

For the last three months, I stayed in a hotel for a few weeks and then my condo, living simply, with my car full of items augmented by some things, like a table and a dresser, that members of the Call Committee provided, as well as the new living room and dining room furniture I purchased--having cast aside some pieces that were too worn to be worth moving. The hardest part, without a doubt, was sleeping on an air mattress. Airbeds are better than the old school air mattresses--but I don't think my back will miss it, after two months sleeping on one.

When I returned to North Dakota after Christmas, I was in full on "pack mode" as I got ready for our movers and then worked to clean up the house and donate a lot of items I chose not to carry east. The time in North Dakota was bitterly cold--it got above zero for slightly less than four hours during the week I spent there (it got to 3 degrees on Dec. 28 from 1-4:30 pm.) It made leaving there perma-

*Continued on Page 3*

## Sundays In February

February 4	<b>Fifth Sunday of Epiphany</b> Services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Sunday School	<b>Mark 1: 29-39</b>
February 11	<b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> Services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Sunday School	<b>Mark 9: 2-9</b>
February 18	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School	<b>Mark 1: 9-15</b>
February 25	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> Services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Sunday School	<b>Mark 8: 31-38</b>

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If you have a pastoral emergency  
after hours or on a weekend, please call **860-300-0019**,  
and a Pastor will return your call.



## From the Pastor (continued)

nently a lot easier!

The day we left to return to Connecticut was truly a “comedy of errors,” We had a garage full of things we were going to bring to friends, donate, or throw, but when my friend arrived with his pickup and trailer to haul it out in two trips, a hose broke on his truck so he couldn’t drive it, and then he locked his keys in the pickup, and finally when we got a replacement SUV to haul the trailer a wheel fell off as we were headed to the freeway. In the end, we only got one trailer loaded before we needed to leave to catch our plane. I had to rely on the kindness of my landlord’s daughter--who I have known for 24 of her 33 years--to haul out what he didn’t get to.

Thankfully, our flight back here was uneventful, except when my Trazodone drugged dog got out of her carrying kennel and wandered into First Class.

Finally, the moving truck arrived last Saturday (three days later than we were told, but what can you do?), and my movers expertly unloaded the many boxes that surround me as I write this, as well as the furniture--and most significantly, my bed! My plan is to unpack the essentials quickly and then take my time with the rest--figuring out what to put where, and what I may need to toss and what I may need to buy--so that this condo, where I hope to remain for many years, feels like home.

The process of moving is an apt metaphor for what Emanuel, as well the larger church as a whole, is going through as we move into a new era as a congregation, and as we seek to be a relevant church in the current age.

The simple reality is that the world is changing, and so the church needs to change too. Not simply because I am a new pastor, but because we are living in times that are different than even the begin-

ning of this millennia. We are becoming a society that is tied to social media and dependent on technology, yet craves personal intimacy, contact, authenticity, and relevance. We are thus a congregation, and a church, on the move.

In the process of moving we will have to make decisions--what will we keep and what will we toss? How will we “make do” during a period of interim, as we explore changes to see how they work? What unexpected challenges will we encounter along the way, which we will need to be creative as we respond to them? What will be the things we will gladly leave behind? What is essential for us to keep to maintain our identity? How will we respond to setbacks? And how will we approach the process of settling in to a new age, as we sort through what makes us at home, as we explore ways to others feel at home here as well?

In the months and weeks ahead, we will begin exploring how to move into the next era--in our Mission and Ministry meetings, as we evaluate our church priorities through our budget and how we support our mission, and in conversations that will take place in town meetings, worship, education classes, and around kitchen tables and tables at church.

At times it will be challenging--moving always is. There will be moments where we will have to compromise and not everyone will be pleased. But as someone who has recently moved and seen the profound difference it has made on my life as I fulfill God’s call, I can tell you without a doubt that it will be worth it in the end, because through the entire process we will be seeking God’s direction for the future.

One of my favorite prayers is from Holden Village, a magical Lutheran retreat center in a unique setting in Chelan, Washington. It was the prayer I lift-

## From the Pastor (continued)

ed up when I first entered the call process, that led me to Emanuel, and I lift it up to you, as we continue to move to the place where God is guiding us. I invite you to pray it nightly, as a prayer for Emanuel, as we look toward the Mission and Ministry ahead.

**O God , you have called your servants  
to ventures of which we cannot see the  
ending, by**

**paths as yet untrodden, through perils  
unknown. Give us faith to go out with  
good courage, not knowing where we  
go, but only that your hand is leading  
us and your love supporting us,  
through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

*Peace, Pastor Paula*

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## Confirmation Schedule

### 8<sup>th</sup> Graders being confirmed this year

- ♦ Class with parents at 6:45 PM on Jan 24 and Jan 31.
- ♦ Lent program (this will be a presentation by Pastor Paula at 6:45 followed by worship at 7:30 PM) Parents and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders should attend each week. See the “Lent at Emanuel” article in this issue of God With Us.
- ♦ Class at 6:45 PM with parents and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders on: April 4, April 18, May 2 and May 9.
- ♦ Confirmation Banquet on May 16.
- ♦ Confirmation Retreat on March 16-18.
- ♦ Hands on Hartford Immersion Experience with service event and then lock-in at church--tentatively scheduled for Feb. 17-18.
- ♦ If an 8<sup>th</sup> Grader will miss more than two of the above, they can make it up at an 8<sup>th</sup> Graders “mini retreat” from 12 to 2 PM after Worship on February 25 and April 8.
- ♦ Confirmation Sunday, May 20

### 7<sup>th</sup> Graders and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders doing the extended program

- ♦ Class with parent sat 6:45 PM on Jan 24 and Jan 31.
- ♦ Hands on Hartford Immersion Experience with service event and then lock in at church--tentatively scheduled for Feb. 17-18.
- ♦ Confirmation Retreat on March 16-18.
- ♦ If an 8<sup>th</sup> Grader will miss more than two of the above, they can make it up at an 8<sup>th</sup> Graders “mini retreat” from 12 to 2 PM after Worship on February 25 and April 8.
- ♦ Parents of 7<sup>th</sup> graders should let Pastor Paula know ASAP if those dates do not work for you. If you cannot make those times or the retreat, you can make them up by coming to the Lenten Program and doing the worksheets.

**Confirmation**

## Lent at Emanuel

We are saved by grace, but become disciples by decision. Since Lent is typically a time for penance and spiritual discipline, this year our focus during Lent will be Marks of Discipleship.

Each week, beginning with Ash Wednesday and concluding on Maundy Thursday, we will explore a different Mark of Discipleship during our worship services.

Prior to worship, we will have a simple soup and sandwich meal from 6:15 to 6:45 PM, followed by a presentation by Pastor Paula on a faith related

issue from 6:45 to 7:15 PM and the Service at 7:30 PM

This year, in addition to coming to worship during Lent, members are also encouraged to live out their faith through concrete acts of giving. Each week, there will be a “faith action” opportunity, where people will be invited to provide a needed item for area residents. These items, were selected in consultation with Hands on Hartford, and will be distributed by *Hands on Hartford*

Date	Mark of Discipleship	Faith Action
February 14	<i>Living as a Disciple</i>	Toothbrush and Toothpaste
February 21	<i>Scripture</i>	Deodorant
February 28	<i>Prayer</i>	Reading Glasses
March 7	<i>Worship</i>	Birthday Bags (contains birthday cake mix, frosting, candles, birthday plates and any other party supply you would like to add to be given out at the pantry)
March 14	<i>Spiritual Growth</i>	Personal hygiene/menstrual products
March 21	<i>Giving</i>	Socks and Underwear
March 29	<i>Being a Team Player</i>	Diapers or Adult Pads

# Church Council

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## December 2017 Council Meeting

Council Vice President Mark Hollertz called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

The meeting began with a presentation by Timothy Jester and Lisa Longest of The Colony Group which serves as Emanuel’s investment advisor. Earlier in the evening Colony Group went over investment performance and the Investment Policy Statement with Emanuel’s Finance Committee. At the Council meeting, they gave a general overview of how Colony Group works to support Emanuel. Fiduciary guidelines, the fiduciary decision-making process, and the relationship between Council and Colony Group were reviewed. Council is the investment steward and Colony Group is our Financial Advisor. Colony Group guides us and helps to ensure that Emanuel correctly manages its investments using best practices. Council responsibilities should include

informing the congregation of investments and performance annually and approving who is on the Finance Committee. Council will meet again in October 2018 with the Colony Group and will have ongoing conference calls to discuss performance and any issues.

Pastor Paula Mehmel led devotions, with Council members sharing thoughts on the question “where have you seen God in your life and how have you felt his presence?” The meeting minutes of November 26, 2017 were approved.

**Operations** – Jane Wunder reported that the lead based paint abatement has been completed in the Hungerford 3<sup>rd</sup> floor apartment. Clearance testing is in progress, after which the Chelalis would like to move to the third floor. A task force will be meeting in January to revisit the guidelines for use of Emanuel’s facilities.

## December 2017 Council Meeting (continued)

**Finance** - Tim Elwell reported that the Finance and Stewardship committees met on Dec 1 to review the first iteration of the 2018 budget, focusing in particular on projected income and pledge assumptions. We are at a 12% reduction of where we were from last year. The proposed budget will be presented for Council review in January, and then to the Congregation at its Annual Meeting on February 11.

### Senior Pastor's Report

#### **Trinity Episcopal Church in Hartford and the Trinity Academy**

-- The school is a tuition free day school for children in Hartford. A handout was distributed about the Academy. Trinity Church is looking to expand their Academy. A possibility includes expanding 2 or 3 classes into Emanuel, likely Kindergarten and 1st grade classes.

Logistical challenges with this two-site approach are being looked at. There are many advantages to becoming partners with Trinity Episcopal Church through this Academy, including strengthening our connection with the community, engaging more people and volunteers, and grants/funding for the academy. The bottom line is we would provide for ongoing costs of space, utilities and expendables. The current plan is to begin discussion within Emanuel to determine if members are open to the possibility of this partnership, along with exploring the operational details of the arrangement. A Town Hall Meeting has been planned to introduce the leaders of Trinity Academy and begin an open conversation. There was Council consensus that the partnership should be further explored and that ministry like this is what the Sandberg Mission Endowment was envisioned to support – mission beyond our own congregation.

**Security** -- Rachid has a specific role on Sunday

and he is tasked with helping to provide security to the church. Council members were asked to help get the message out that this is his highest priority on Sunday mornings.

**Communion** – Pastor explained the reasoning behind offering goldfish crackers to small children during communion, as it is often unclear to our pastors whether children have had communion or not. We will also look for gluten free alternatives.

**Mission and Ministry** – Small group meetings with Pastor will begin in January.

**Treasurer's Report** -- Bobbee Canfield shared comments on income and expenses. (Please refer to the Annual Report for a detailed report on 2017 financial results.)

**Nominations for Council Memberships and Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee shared the idea of having Chet Brodnicki continue to serve as President even though his 2-year term will be complete. As he has been here through the transition process, it may enable a smoother transition if the pastor and Council president are not both new. (Chet is willing to serve again in this capacity.) Pastor will review the Constitution. Council is in support of Chet serving one more year as Council President.

**AED Task force** – Mindy Olson reported that a small task force is looking into the purchase of an AED. They are looking for any available grants and checking with other churches who have an AED. Additionally, they are going to look through the First Aid Kits that Emanuel currently has in place to see if they need updating.

## Stewardship

**I**t's not too late to make a pledge! If you haven't done so already, please consider making a financial commitment to Emanuel for 2018. Knowing the total of pledged financial commitments, Emanuel's leadership can better plan the year ahead, serving as good stewards of the resources available for mission and ministry.

To date, 142 pledges have been received for a total of \$329,011. (Last year at the same time, we had received 156 pledges for \$349,927.) The 2018 "faith-based giving" line item in the budget projects a total of \$452,500 which is the total of pledge commitments, non-pledged giving (giving by members who do not pledge), and loose plate offerings. The 2018 budget, yet to be reviewed/approved by the congregation, will likely require approximately \$385,000 from our investment accounts to meet operating and

ministry expenses. This is a significant draw on our endowment accounts, a burden that may increase depending on final stewardship results. We are blessed with a generous congregation -- people who give from their hearts, people who make commitments faithfully each year.

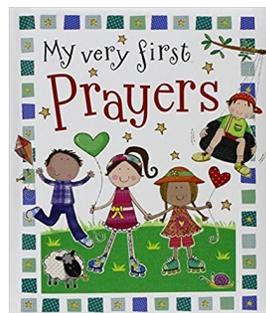
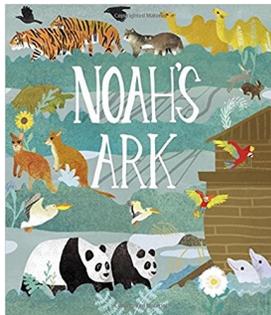
Committing our resources to the church is an important part of our faith journey and our life as a congregation. We encourage everyone to enthusiastically support our 2018 budget and be a part of God's exciting work here at Emanuel. **We're counting on everyone!** If you'd like a pledge card, they can be found on the table at the back of the church, or just call the church office and a card will be sent to you. If you'd like to share any stewardship concerns you have, please don't hesitate to contact our Financial Secretary, Lee Sherman, at 860-523-1702.

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## Children's Library News

**T**hanks to an anonymous donor, the library now has two new wonderful books. While we have other books about Noah, Noah's Ark retold by Catherine Allison is a wonderful retelling of the Great Flood. It begins with the simple statement that "Long, long ago, when the world was still new, God saw that all was not well." It tells how God was pleased with Noah and how He told Noah about His plan to change the world. Besides being well written, the book is also wonderfully illustrated.

My Very First Prayers by Gabrielle Mercers is not your typical prayer book. It is a board book written in rhyming form for young children. It is



not a book of prayers for children, but rather a book that encourages children to share their lives with God. It tells children that they can talk to God anytime, from being in the bathtub to riding their bikes to just looking out the window. It teaches them that praying to God is like talking to a friend. It is a reminder about praying that all of us need to hear.

Thank you to our donor for these two wonderful books. Thanks also go to those of you who have returned your Christmas books. If you have not done so, we ask that you do that as soon as possible and at the same time check out our collection of Valentine books.

# Would you like to help with Sunday Worship?

Please contact our ministry coordinators:

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



## Worship Ministry for February

### Acolytes & Crucifers

<b>February 4</b>	Acolyte	Ellie Potulis
	Crucifer	Gifty Kannah
<b>February 11</b>	Acolyte	Megan Murphy
	Crucifer	Libby Karim
<b>February 18</b>	Acolyte	Matthew Anderson
	Crucifer	Aron Kiehne
<b>February 25</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	Gavin Emmons
	Crucifer	Mebret Farquhar

### Aides

<b>February 4</b>	PreK-K	Brynn Murphy
	1st & 2nd	Griffin Fairchild
	3rd & 4th	Charles Sinche
<b>February 11</b>	<b>PreK-K</b>	Samantha Johnson
	1st & 2nd	Trey Hazard
	3rd & 4th	Marie Hollertz
<b>February 18</b>	<b>no Sunday School</b>	
<b>February 25</b>	<b>PreK-K</b>	Lizzy Arcand
	1st & 2nd	Hannah Karim
	3rd & 4th	Matthew Graulich

### Assisting Ministers

<b>February 4</b>	Monica Swanson
<b>February 11</b>	Alan Meeds
<b>February 18</b>	Mal Doyle
<b>February 5</b>	Janice Favreau

### Communion Preparers

<b>February 4</b>	Val and Craig McDonald
<b>February 11</b>	Jeannette Urban
<b>February 18</b>	Jane Wunder
<b>February 25</b>	Marjorie Johnson

### Greeters

<b>February 4</b>	Janet and John Starkes
<b>February 11</b>	Lynn and Lee Sherman
<b>February 18</b>	Bobbee Canfield
<b>February 25</b>	Susan and John Franzis

### Lectors

#### 8:00 a.m.

<b>February 4</b>	Kathy Haller
<b>February 11</b>	Rosie Vojtek
<b>February 18</b>	Kathy Haller
<b>February 25</b>	Bob Vojtek

#### 10:00 a.m.

<b>February 4</b>	Janice Favreau
<b>February 11</b>	Elizabeth Kieschnick
<b>February 18</b>	Nancy Gray
<b>February 25</b>	Roland Johnson

### Sound & Recording

<b>February 4</b>	Noah Fairchild
<b>February 11</b>	Mal Doyle
<b>February 18</b>	Harry Arcand
<b>February 25</b>	Rhiannon Kiersznowski

## Special Emanuel Birthdays (80 and older) This Month

- ◆ Evelyn Samsel (February 12), 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 Anniversaries (Married for 50 or more years) This Month

- ◆ Karin and Kenneth Stetson (February 19),
- ◆ Ans and Robert Swanson (February 22)



***Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.***

Dr. Candito C. Carroccia † Melanie Sinche † Karin Gottier † Janice Favreau † Rudy Peterson †  
Ann Louise Swanson † Tom LaPointe † Carol Johnson † Dick Johnson † Elaine Wilson †  
Kathryn LaPointe † Joan Feldmann † Doris Barron † Pamela Vigil † Betty-Lois Benson † Eliana

## Remember and/or Honor Someone with Altar Flowers — \$45.00

Please provide the following information 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1</p> <p>9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:45 – 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p>3:30 – 9:00 PM Friday Night Program</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 – 12:00 Noon Sprout!</p>
<p>4</p> <p><b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b> 11:30 – 1:30 PM Mission &amp; Ministry (Lounge)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 – 9:00 PM Mission &amp; Ministry (Lounge)</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:45 – 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p> <p>3:30 – 9:00 PM Friday Night Program</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 – 12:00 Noon Sprout! <i>Content for March "God With Us" due</i></p>
<p>11</p> <p><b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> Annual Meeting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p><b>Ash Wednesday</b> 6:15 – 6:45 PM Soup &amp; Sandwich 6:45 – 7:15 PM "Living as a Disciple" 7:30 PM Service</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 – 9:00 PM Mission &amp; Ministry (Lounge) 7:45 – 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16</p> <p>3:30 – 9:00 PM Friday Night Program</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00 – 12:00 Noon Sprout! Hands on Harford Immersion Experience Lock-In</p>
<p>18</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> No Sunday School Hands on Harford Immersion Experience Lock-In</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:15 – 6:45 PM Soup &amp; Sandwich 6:45 – 7:15 PM "Scripture" 7:30 PM Service</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00 AM Bible Study 1:00 – 3:00 PM Mission &amp; Ministry (Newington) 7:45 – 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23</p> <p>3:30 – 9:00 PM Friday Night Program</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 – 12:00 Noon Sprout!</p>
<p>25</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> 12:00 – 2:00 PM 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mini Retreat</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:15 – 6:45 PM Soup &amp; Sandwich 6:45 – 7:15 PM "Prayer" 7:30 PM Service</p>			<p>Services on Sunday Mornings are at 8:00 am and 10:00 am. Sunday School occurs every Sunday except for February 18.</p>

**God With Us**

**Emanuel Lutheran Church**  
311 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

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*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