

GOD WITH US

The Newsletter of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Hartford



Celebrating 125 Years in Hartford!

1889 - 2014

*As this congregation now enters its 125th year of life,
may we commit ourselves to a 125th year of
bearing the light of Christ to the world. ~Pastor Corgan*

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. in the Chapel

10:00 a.m. in the Church



Epiphany of Our Lord

Monday, January 6, 2014

All kings shall bow down before him.

-Psalm 72:11

Connect with us on Facebook! Please visit <http://www.emanuelhartford.org/> and click on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/pages/Emanuel-Lutheran-Church/118693741517102



**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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From Pastor Corgan

Dear Friends in Christ,

December 6, 2013 will go down in the history of Emanuel as one of its most significant and memorable days. The 100th Celebration of the Lucia Festival could not have been more beautiful or moving for the attendees and participants. Both performances were well attended, with 410 and 425 at the 5:00 p.m. and the 8:00 p.m. shows, respectively. Congratulations for a job so well-done to this year's Lucias, Molly Swanson and Maria Flanders! Also, kudos to the entire cast for the commitment, talent and joy they brought to all of us. At the later performance, seeing so many (about 40!) "former Lucias" join the cast for the final song was a real highlight! I especially enjoyed the former Lucias singing from the front of the church as Lucia and her cast processed out. After each performance, hundreds enjoyed the Lucia Reception and Emanuel Craft Fair in the auditorium.

Many, many thanks to everyone who was involved in Lucia 2013. Special thanks to Director, Kristen Wieber, to Accompanist, Jonathan Reuning-Scherer, to Arlene Parmelee for her warm and gracious Lucia welcome, to Holly Aronson who coordinated the cast supper, to Judy Johnson and the "Craft Ladies," to Lisa Martin, reception hostess, and to the Lucia 100th Anniversary coordinators, Claudia Wieber and Kristen Wieber. There are many others who deserve our

gratitude, too numerous to name here. Please know that your efforts are appreciated by all of us at Emanuel.

Lucia, at its best, always prepares us well for Christmas. With its emphasis on the light of the candles that illuminated the way for Lucia as she took food to hungry, persecuted Christians, the Lucia Festival directs us to the light that God has provided to show the way in a world of deep darkness. As we gather in late December, with millions of others on Christmas Eve, as we sing Silent Night in darkened churches with candles providing the only light, hearts and minds are drawn to a baby, in a manger, one who would come to be known as the Light of the World.

This month, we move to the season of Epiphany, the time of the manifestation, the showing of the Christ Child to the whole world. Could it be that, in this one, light has truly come into this dark world, light that indeed shines and will not and cannot be expelled by the darkness? Could it be that this Jesus, the Christ, truly is God's response to hatred, cruelty, violence, despair, shame...and all the other marks of our darkness?

In Matthew's Gospel (chapter 4, verse 16), Jesus quotes an Old Testament text to help people then (and now) understand what was happening:

"...the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the shadow of death a light has dawned."

Where else to find "light" for this dark place, this realm of suffering, pain, fear

and death; light for our hearts and souls? Really, where? Why the endless search? The one who said "I am the Light of the world" is the one who conquered death and lives as God for us and with us. This one, Jesus, also said about us, "you are the light of the world...let your light shine before others...that they may see your good deeds and praise and glorify God."

So, let the Light shine, friends! May the Light of Christ shine in and through you and us, shine brightly as it has shone throughout history, from the manger in Bethlehem, to Lucia in 3rd century Sicily, to our ancestors in the faith around the globe, to you, your children, families and all of us, here today as Emanuel Lutheran Church. As this congregation now enters its 125th year of life, may we commit ourselves to a 125th year of bearing the light of Christ to the world.

There's no better job, no higher calling, no greater privilege!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Corgan

P.S. SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, March 15, Emanuel will host a special event, sponsored by the New England Lutheran Theological Forum. Dr. David Lose, a leading theologian and professor of the ELCA, will be the presenter. More details will be provided.

Sunday School News



Nativity Festival recap:

by Celia Allison, Superintendent

A million thanks to all the children - lambs, angels, shepherds, and festival choristers - who participated in this year's Nativity Festival on December 22!

Once again, Emanuel's youngest shared with the rest of us the awesome story of God coming to Earth. "And you shall be my witnesses" – Acts 1:8.

Special thanks to...

- Mrs. Becki Murphy who directed this year's presentation
- Mrs. Elizabeth Kieschnick who helped us remember what worked and didn't work in the past and, with son Ryan, set up the crèche
- Narrators Vicar Jane and Miss Maria Flanders
- The Star, Esteban Montoya
- The youth who learned solo parts: Rhiannon Kiersznowski, Jennie Livingston, Ben and Cole Liljedahl, Noah Fairchild, Trey Hazard, Stephanie Reuning-Scherer, Matthew Graulich, Kelly Caldwell, Grace Maynard, Brynn and Megan Murphy, Maya Johnson, Harrison and Elizabeth Arcand, and Christopher Liddell

- Light Bearer, Luke Johnson
- The teachers and teen aides who kept order during rehearsals and kept the classroom chaos in hand on Festival morning
- The parents who helped their kids get fitted for costumes, learn their songs and lines, and get dressed on Festival morning
- Anyone I'm forgetting, please consider yourself appreciated

The Festival is a massive undertaking and can only be done with *everyone's* assistance – not to mention the Holy Spirit (who I know was smiling from ear to ear throughout the whole process).

January lessons:

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

January 5: Wise Men. Through the wise men, Herod learned about the Messiah's birth. Matthew 2:1-12.

January 12: Jesus' Baptism. Baptism signals that we are God's children. Matthew 3:13-17.

January 19: The Disciples. Jesus calls his disciples and begins teaching among unpopular people. Matthew 4:12-23 and 9:9-13 and 10:1-4.

January 26: The Lord's Prayer. Prayers should not be public performances, but instead should be meant for God alone. Matthew 6:5-15.

Prayer for the month:

Dear Lord, we pray for the Magi's wisdom to understand and follow your star.

Confirmation News

"A place where you get cheap stuff"

by Natalie Bloomquist

One of our mentors shared the following episode with much more humor on her Facebook page, but I'll do my best.

Last month we were studying the first three commandments. At one point I asked, "What is idolatry?"

"A place where you get cheap stuff," said one student.

After some moments trying to discover the deeper theological meaning of his answer I said, "No, I am not asking what is a Dollar Tree. What is idolatry?"

Another student replied, "It's when you cheat on your wife."

You can imagine how class progressed from that point. These are the times that can try the patience of confirmation teachers but they are also times for laughter and appreciation of the unique qualities of middle schoolers.

Perhaps the funniest part was that while I was asking the question, I was pointing to the word "idolatry" and its description projected on the



massive screen in the gym. Details and focused attention are not necessarily middle schoolers' strongest attributes.

(continued on next page)

Confirmation News (continued)

The next week we met in Luther Hall and used the TV for class. This time I came prepared. On the screen, when the word “idolatry” appeared, the word “idol” written in red floated down from the top of the screen, landing on the first four letters of “idolatry.” We then had a little meatier discussion of how idolatry is turning a good thing into an ultimate thing – turning something that is not God into a god.

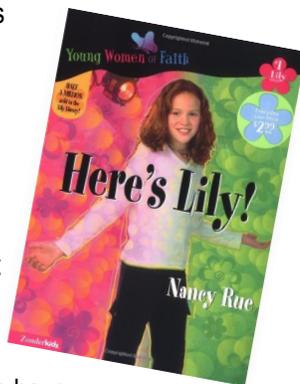
A couple of different games helped us identify the things in our lives that we sometimes let have priority over God. We agreed that these idols are generally good things. But when we make them into gods they can become harmful and throw our lives out of balance. What they are beginning to discover at their developmental level is that when these things become ultimate things in our lives they also become where we place our trust instead of placing our trust in God – the One who will never let us down.

We enter the New Year building on the foundation of the first three commandments (the ones that relate to our relationship with God). We’re ready to move on to the remaining seven that relate to our relationship with others. We’re ready because we are comforted and strengthened by knowing that because we are God’s we do not need gods.

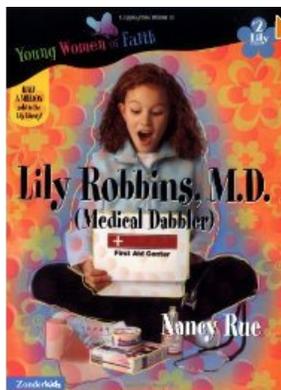
Sunday School Parents: This year you will find your Family Page in your email box each Sunday. Don't miss these helpful talking points and activity ideas for helping your children make meaning of the day's Bible story and for engaging in meaningful faith conversations!

Children’s Library News

The Children’s Library is excited to highlight some new wonderful donations that we have received.



Four books we have received are for older children and are from the Lily or Young Women of Faith series. Here’s Lily introduces an awkward sixth-grader named Lily Robbins. After getting a compliment about her looks from a woman in the modeling business, Lily decides she would like to become a model. It is a wonderful story about growing up and teaches a valuable lesson about real beauty.

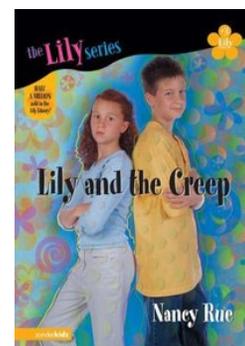


Lily Robbins, M.D. (Medical Dabbling) has Lily changing her focus from being a model to being a healthcare professional. After witnessing a car accident and helping a little boy who was hurt, Lily is on a mission to become a “great healer.” Per usual, she goes overboard and soon her friends don’t want to be around her. Lily learns an important lesson about friendship.

In Horse Crazy Lily, Lily has decided to go western and believes that she is destined to be the next famous cowgirl. Her room begins to look like a stable and her life is all about horses. However, she begins to question her faith as her newly adopted sister, Tessa, intrudes on her new-found love of horses. When the unthinkable happens at the stable, Lily learns a real lesson in faith and who God really is.

Lily and the Creep finds Lily and her friends fed up with the never ending teasing from a boy named Shad.

They decide to give Shad a taste of his own medicine but, per usual, things don’t turn out quite the way they



expected. Lily will make an unpleasant discovery and must decide what’s important – becoming someone she can like or someone God can like. Come and check out these exciting books and the other new donations the library has received. Thank you to the Fastigi and Hollertz/Paquette families. Also, don’t forget to return your Christmas books if you have not already done so. Thank you.

Parents of Toddlers

If your child has or will turn three years of age in 2014, he or she may be ready to start Sunday School at Emanuel. Please feel free to contact Natalie Bloomquist if you have any questions.



News from Vicar Jane

As a child, when my family packed the car for vacations, I anticipated grand adventures. Over several summers we went from my home in Illinois to Tennessee, Florida, Montana, Ontario, Colorado, and even New York City. Part of the excitement of these road trips was that my dad had planned them and had built in surprises along the way. As we traveled we glimpsed places of beauty and discovered previously unknown ways of life. Dad taught us how to read maps and told us about the places we saw.

In those days you couldn't take a road trip without at least one flat tire. Sometimes sizzling hot days accompanied us in a time before cars had air conditioners. There were days when all was a downpour. Striking landscapes and long boring drives were all a part of these adventures. But the best thing about our vacations was that dad was with us for two continuous weeks. My dad traveled in his work and was usually home only on weekends. To have dad with us all day for 14 days in a row was an exceptional delight.

Our Sunday readings this church year focus on the Gospel of Matthew. With the author of Matthew, we celebrate the theme of Immanuel—"God with us." The gospel of Matthew emphasizes that God became human and lived among us as

Jesus, our Lord. It teaches that Christian spirituality is based on the fact that God, in the person of Jesus Christ, has chosen to be with us. And the best part about this is that God has promised us that God is with us *always* as we go about the adventure of expressing our faith.

This means that God is with us in our church, our homes, and in all the places of our lives. God is with us in our joys, our routines, and in our sorrows. God is with us during the week and on weekends, when we are working or going to school, and when we are on vacation or enjoying retirement. God is with us when we face difficulties with our health, relationships and finances. God is with us when we believe and when we question our faith. God is with us in our youth and in our aging. God is also with us when we share this good news with others.

As the world has left the Christmas season behind and has moved on to the New Year, we continue to live with the reality of God's presence among us. We have celebrated the incarnation of Christ during the Christmas season, but the celebration continues, precisely because God is with us. The church year takes us to the Epiphany season, during which we celebrate the revelation that Jesus is the Christ, the one who is with us.

This church year, as we read and study and hear sermons from the Gospel of Matthew, I challenge you to do two things. First, read the Gospel of Matthew and ask how the Gospel describes this Immanuel God—this God who is with us. Second, look for the activity of God in your life and in the lives of those around you. Because God is with us, we are on adventures of God's own planning.

I had vacation adventures with my dad as a child, but the key component of those adventures was that dad was with us. Not all of us have memories such as mine, but as children of Immanuel - God with us - we can be certain that we participate in even vaster adventures and that they take place in our daily lives because God is truly with us.

Save the Date: *G*rowing in Grace: Conversations in Community

Saturday, March 8, 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Coffee and registration at 8:30 a.m. in
Luther Hall

Vicar Jane invites all adults to explore God's grace on a practical, daily kind of level. March 8 is the first Saturday in Lent. Join us for this interactive retreat and start Lent by recognizing the power of grace in our lives.

- What does grace mean in our daily living?
- How do we experience God's grace?
- How can we help others experience grace?

Thanks from Vicar Jane

Thanks to all who have supported Chuck and me through this challenging time facing cancer and Chuck's broken ankle. We are a long way from home, but you have welcomed us and supported us with your concern, prayers, meals, cards and encouragement. Chuck and I thank you as we continue to be amazed at the many ways God is working through you to bring God's love to us.

St. Lucia Festival

100th Anniversary

A Special Thank You

The 100th Lucia Pageant was an incredible evening at Emanuel - and one we will never forget. Over 800 people attended the two services, 38 former Lucias returned, 33 children participated in the cast, Maria and Molly sang with grace and beauty, Jonathan played with bravado - and countless members of Emanuel volunteered their time, passion and energy to our beloved tradition of Lucia.

An event such as this one does not happen without the support of so many people - and we are very grateful to everyone mentioned in the Lucia program. There are some people who were not mentioned in the program and deserve recognition: Brian Lysik who jumped in at the last minute and did a wonderful job taping the two shows and getting the former Lucia's on tape as well

with their thoughts. Laura Sherman, Hannah Parmelee Boyaggi and Jane Wunder were our narrators who helped to tell the Lucia story. Arlene Parmelee and Judy Johnson located many of our former Lucia's and made their night so special. And to everyone who helped with cooking, cleaning, costumes, lights, seating, decorations, set up, folding programs, publicity, photos, serving in the gym, tickets sales, everything - we are so appreciative!

And a final heartfelt thank you to Pastor Corgan for being our rock and so supportive for the past 6 months. It was truly an honor for us to be a part of the 100th Lucia Pageant at Emanuel.

God Jul!
Claudia and Kristen Wieber



Memorial Gift Received

Emanuel has received a memorial gift from Vicky Cirilli, in loving memory of her parents, Martha and Joseph Cirilli.

These funds will be used in three areas of ministry: Music and Worship, Altar Guild and Habitat for Humanity.

Many thanks to Vicky for thinking of her church in this generous way and for helping us remember her parents, Martha and Joe, who were long-time, active members of Emanuel.

Mystery Pledges Received

On Pledge Sunday, November 17, we were pleased to receive a total of 132 pledges. Two of the pledge cards did not have a name filled and as such, we are unable to post these pledges to the correct individuals' accounts. The pledge cards were filled out for \$10/week and \$40/week, respectively. If you filled out a blank pledge card handed out by the ushers in church that Sunday morning, and might have inadvertently neglected to fill in your name - please call Ellen Anderson in the church office so that our files can be updated. And thank you to all who have pledged to date!

Your 2014 Pledge is Needed

If you haven't made a pledge to Emanuel yet, please consider sending in your 2014 pledge card during December. Pledge cards are available from an usher or the church office, and can be placed in the collection plate or mailed to the church office. Thank you for your support of Emanuel's ministries.

Please Note:

The deadline for the *Sunday News* is on Tuesday, by 5:00 p.m.
The deadline for *God With Us* (monthly newsletter) is on the 15th of the month.

Pew Torches

The new pew torches are given in loving memory of Karen Lee Pergande by the contributors to her memorial fund and the Pergande family.

Dear Emanuel Friends,

Bernie and I thank you for the many cards, words of encouragement and especially your prayers.

We are truly blessed to have such a caring Pastor, very supportive family and our wonderful Emanuel friends. As we face this latest health challenge together, we realize once again how much strength we receive from having a strong faith in God.

*Very gratefully,
Bernie & Helen Johnson*

A special meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, January 12 at 11:30 a.m. in the nave of the church.

The order of business will be to consider and vote upon proposed changes to the constitution of Emanuel. All voting members are urged to attend.

Committee, Ministry or Task Force Leader: Your year-end report is due in the church office soon. Karen will send you some helpful information to help you get it done quickly and easily. Thanks!

Save the Date:
Sunday, May 4, 2014
Emanuel's Homecoming Sunday

Volunteer Opportunities on Sundays

If you are interested in volunteering to be a Coffee Hour Host, Greeter or Lector, please contact the coordinators below.

Coffee Hour Hosts: Eleanor Doyle, 860-561-1582

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

Lectors: Lynn Sherman, 860-523-1702

Thank you Eleanor, Eileen and Lynn for your service to these important ministries.

Thursday Bible Study

Please join us at 10:00 a.m. in the Adult Classroom of the Parish Building. We'll be studying the texts for the coming Sunday. Please see page 10 for a listing of texts.



The 124th Annual Meeting of Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 26, 2014,
following the 10:00 a.m. service

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 January!

Theodora Rosenlof - January 16

Ernest Wignall - January 22

Elizabeth Anderson - January 29

Kenneth Weeks, Jr. - January 30

Special Emanuel Anniversaries During January!

Inge and Roy Levin, January 6, 59th



Kayla and her little baby, Kenneth

Kayla and Kenneth lived at The Florence House, an LSS teen parenting program that offers transitional living in a safe and therapeutic environment for low income and often homeless mothers. There, with the help of LSS staff, Kayla gained the skills necessary to take care of Kenneth and the confidence to manage life successfully.

Your support of LSS will help make real difference in the lives of teen moms like Kayla. Together we can help young families move towards independence and thrive.

To give online: <http://www.lssne.org/>

Contact LSS:

Lutheran Social Services
14 East Worcester Street, Suite 300
Worcester, MA 01604
Toll Free 877.500.8263 or 774.243.3900

ELCA Global Links



Philippines: Aid is still needed after typhoon

Lutheran Disaster Response has provided \$1 million for cooking utensils, shelter repair kits and debris removal for survivors of Typhoon Haiyan. But the recovery will be long and the need is great. Your help is still needed. Gifts designated for this disaster will be used 100 percent to support relief efforts. To donate, see www.ELCA.org/Typhoon. For more information, see www.ELCA.org/Typhoon-urgent.

Give by mail:

Lutheran Disaster Response
39330 Treasury Center
Chicago, IL 60694-9300
(please write "Pacific Typhoon Response," or "Where Needed Most" on your check's memo line)

Climate change creates great global need

People living in poverty around the world are affected the most by climate change, said Mary Minette, ELCA director for environmental education and advocacy, while attending a recent conference on global climate change. Providing aid after the typhoon that struck the Philippines is just one example of how the ELCA is

committed to supporting people around the world who live in poverty and are affected by extreme weather events. See www.ELCA.org/ClimateChange.

Living in "accompaniment" in South Africa

"We are not sent to fix, to change, or to rectify. ... [but rather] sent to be continually awed and humbled by our experiences within our new homes," says Rachel Swenson, who is spending a year in South Africa as an ELCA Young Adult in Global Mission. See www.ELCA.org/YAGM-Swenson.

India: Helping empower female leaders for the church

Sanchita Kisku, an International Leader and ELCA scholarship recipient from India studying in Chicago, wonders why there are so few female Lutheran leaders or pastors in India, when so many women fill leadership roles in Indian tribal culture. "If you give leadership to women, the church will grow," says Kisku. Read more by downloading the fall *Hand in Hand* bulletin insert or newsletter at www.ELCA.org/resources/globalchurch.

Myanmar: A thriving Christian community

"We Americans talk about ecumenism, but these folks are living it," the Rev. Christa VonZychlin and the Rev. Wayne Nieminen write after visiting Kachin Theological College in Myanmar (Burma). The ELCA missionaries in Hong Kong also describe an inspiring visit to a refugee camp for children during their trip to Myanmar. See www.ELCA.org/MyanmarTrip.

Jerusalem/West Bank: Support and follow Young Adults in Global Mission!

This Christmas, as we remember Christ's birth, celebrate also the six young adults serving for a year with schools and congregations of the Lutheran church in the Holy Land. Learn more about them and make a gift for their support at <https://community.elca.org/Jordan-HolyLand>, or ask for a profile and their blog listings by contacting globalchurch@elca.org.



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.

Today's Date: _____

Date for Flowers: _____

In Honor/Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Phone Number: _____

Questions? Call the Church Office 525-0894

Church Council Highlights

Please look for the “Church Council Meeting Highlights” in the February issue of *God With Us*.



The Marriage Celebration of Celine Beth Bailey and Michael Anthony Coons was held at Emanuel on Saturday, November 30, 2013. Congratulations to all!



Hands on Hartford thanks Emanuel for its monthly donation of \$916.66 and for partnering with them to change lives and renew human possibility in programs such as MANNA Community Meals, Peter's Retreat and the MANNA Community Pantry.



Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity thanks Emanuel for its recent donation of \$2,000 which helps provide affordable homeownership opportunities for hard-working families.

Bible Readings for the Month

Jan. 5 Second Sunday of Christmas

1st Lesson:
Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
2nd Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel: John 1:1-18

Jan. 6 Epiphany of Our Lord

1st Lesson:
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
2nd Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 12 Baptism of Our Lord

1st Lesson:
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
2nd Lesson:
Acts 10:34-43
Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Jan. 19 Second Sunday after Epiphany

1st Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
2nd Lesson:
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Gospel: John 1:29-42

Jan. 26 Third Sunday after Epiphany

1st Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
2nd Lesson:
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

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

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, administered by Pastor Corgan, is used to assist people in need.



Snow Shoe Hike for Adults Winter in the White Mountains

January 24-26, 2014

Enjoy the beauty of the mountains in the winter! Winter hiking is delightful because the snow covers the rocks to form a level surface and there are no bugs! If you can walk, then you can snowshoe. Calumet provides snowshoes if you need them. On Saturday, we will do a moderate hike in the White Mountain National Forest, followed up on Sunday with a shorter morning hike closer to Calumet.

You should have a modest level of fitness (routinely can walk 3-4 miles). We will stay at Calumet and delicious hot meals will be provided. Calumet's leader for these outdoor adventures is Jerry Knirk, an experienced and avid outdoor enthusiast.

Contact Betsy at betsy@calumet.org or 603-539-3223, ext. 219 for more information or to make your reservation.

Ryan Clancy

Coordinator of Youth Activities

Ryan's contact information:

rmclancy101@gmail.com or 207-408-9935.

Emanuel Rec Basketball League

This winter, during mid January and all of February, Emanuel will be hosting a recreational basketball league. There will be two age groups for the league, 6th-12th graders and an adult league, 18+. Games will be held after church on Sundays and can be scheduled during the week. We're looking for teams of five. There will be an invitation sent out to the Lutheran churches in the area. Depending on interest we will scale back on team numbers. Games will start **January 12**.

Calendar of Youth Group Activities/Events

January 24 - 26: Boston Quake Zone Youth Gathering

\$50 Deposit by December 8, total \$155 (we have a credit, so depending on the numbers, the total will be reduced)



2015 ELCA Youth Gathering, July 15 - 19, 2015

If you are interested in your son/daughter attending the Gathering, please contact Diane Durant at 860-953-4918 or via e-mail at DDurant5@cox.net. We need to get an estimate of youth interested in attending the Gathering for planning and fundraising purposes.

February 2: Youth Group host Coffee Hour/Souper Bowl Sunday

This will be the best coffee ever at Emanuel. We will be collecting money and food for *Hands on Hartford* as well as kick start our month of *End Hunger CT*.

February 23: Food packaging at Emanuel with END HUNGER NE

February 28 - March 2: Youth Ski Weekend at Calumet

\$130 plus rentals per person

March 7 - 9: Winter Fling at Calumet

The topic of discussion this weekend is "Understanding and Combating Global Poverty." \$100 per person

March 16: March Madness Fundraising Event

Get your team of 3 ready and practicing for 3 on 3 basketball; how many shots can Pastor Corgan make?

In an Emergency. . .

Don't hesitate to call Pastor Corgan on his cell phone 860-712-1895 if you need assistance. If a power outage or storm condition threatens your safety, please call Pastor Corgan. We have a church family, ready and eager to help. You're not alone.

Juice Cans Needed for the Flower Ministry

We need cans that are the 46 ounce size (such as V-8). Please rinse them and leave them in Luther Hall under the coat rack or in the kitchen. Thanks!

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 and Brook Nowak do a great job with our flower ministry. If you'd be willing to help on a Sunday with a delivery, please look for Claudia or Brook in or near the Luther Hall kitchen. Thanks. You'll surely brighten someone's day!

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 Helen Johnson (860-649-6661) or Karen in the church office.

If you'd like to get involved with ideas or planning for this year's 125th Anniversary of Emanuel Lutheran Church please contact Judy Johnson at 860-953-3064 or rjmets@sbcglobal.net.

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Happy New Year! Church Office Closed No Confirmation Class	2 No Bible Study Choir Rehearsals: 6:30 pm: Bell Choir 7:45 pm: Vocal Choir	3 Friday Night Program 3:30 - 9:00 pm	4 10 am - 12 noon: SPROUT in Luther Hall/Gym
5 Second Sunday of Christmas 8 and 10 am Services of Holy Communion During the 10 am service: Sunday School	6 Epiphany of Our Lord	7 9:30 am: Staff Meeting 7 pm: Church Council in Luther Hall	8 6 pm: Confirmation Students and Parents	9 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:30 am: Crafty Painters in Luther Hall 10:00 Bible Study Choir Rehearsals: 6:30 pm: Bell Choir 7:45 pm: Vocal Choir	10 Friday Night Program 3:30 - 9:00 pm	11 10 am - 12 noon: SPROUT in Luther Hall/Gym
12 Baptism of Our Lord 8 and 10 am Services of Holy Communion During the 10 am service: Sunday School 11:30 am: A Special Meeting of the Congregation in the Nave	13	14 9:30 am: Staff Meeting	15 Deadline for "God With Us" At-home Confirmation	16 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:30 am: Crafty Painters in Luther Hall 10:00 Bible Study Choir Rehearsals: 6:30 pm: Bell Choir 7:45 pm: Vocal Choir	17 Friday Night Program 3:30 - 9:00 pm	18 10 am - 12 noon: SPROUT in Luther Hall/Gym
19 Second Sunday after Epiphany 8 and 10 am Services of Holy Communion During the 10 am service: Sunday School Annual Reports Distributed	20 Church Office Closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	21 9:30 am: Staff Meeting 7 pm: Executive Committee Meeting in Conference Room	22 6:30 pm: Confirmation Class	23 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:30 am: Crafty Painters in Luther Hall 10:00 Bible Study Choir Rehearsals: 6:30 pm: Bell Choir 7:45 pm: Vocal Choir	24 Friday Night Program 3:30 - 9:00 pm	25 10 am - 12 noon: SPROUT in Luther Hall/Gym CommFest - A New England Synod Communications Event
26 Third Sunday after Epiphany 10 am: One Service of Holy Communion During the 10 am service: Sunday School Annual Meeting following the 10 am service	27	28 9:30 am: Staff Meeting 7 pm: Church Council Meeting in Luther Hall	29 At-home Confirmation	30 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:30 am: Crafty Painters in Luther Hall 10:00 Bible Study Choir Rehearsals: 6:30 pm: Bell Choir 7:45 pm: Vocal Choir	31 Friday Night Program 3:30 - 9:00 pm	

Remembering and Saluting some of Emanuel's Assistant Pastors of the past I remember - PART II



by John Starkes

- sort of a moment that attracted my attention as my eyes fell on pages 158 and 159 of our source of this archive series I've enjoyed to prepare each month; pp158-161; in our wonderful book of Emanuel's history - God With Us- 1889-1989, by Norma Westlund Sandberg.

The Rev. Winton M. Hoog	1955-1958
The Rev. Oscar V. Werner	1958-1959
The Rev. Harry A. Peterson	1959-1964
The Rev. John H. Stadlander	1964-1966
(to become our Pastor)	
The Rev. Dr. Marlo B. Miller	1965-1968
The Rev. Elwood O. Semmel	1966-1968
The Rev. G. Robert Klaiber	1967-1970
The Rev. Clifford C. Gerber	1968-1971
The Rev. Richard D. Rintala	1971
The Rev. Dale H. Gustafson	1971-1976
The Rev. Dr. David L. Powers	1977-1981
The Rev. Darrell B. Urban	1982-1988
The Rev. Carl A. Brink	1984- (still active at time of publication)
The Rev. Hugh R. B. Haffenreffer	1989-(still active at time of publication)

So may I suggest for a few moments before you read on, have yourself a little archive moment with these above you may have been involved with. Let a bright light shine with thanksgiving to God for his blessings on Emanuel! It's not that long ago. I'll share a few of my own:

So now with this article for January of 2014 I'll begin with the Rev. Winton M. Hoog, who served with Emanuel 1955-1958, more than likely as one of my instructors for confirmation class as we learned Bible history, details on the order of worship liturgy, but leaving the memory work for Pastor Sandberg as we met each Saturday for two years.

We all enjoyed Pastor Hoog and his very relaxed manner. But I've kept him and his wife, Ruth, as friends to look forward to in later years as an adult to share with at church events of the Connecticut area often to include a worship service where his wife might be involved with the music and her violin she played so nicely, often at Emanuel.

Now I look down the list to the Rev. G. Robert Klaiber -1967-1970. He and his wife became friends on a personal level for those few years as we lived close together off Farmington Avenue near Saint Thomas Church to be in our early years of married life to share new adventures and entertain with some new tastes of exotic foods tested in our kitchens. But all too soon they moved on to new assignments in their home out west in the Swedish Holy Land of Minnesota and Wisconsin; we, too, relocated to a new home in Tolland, CT. But we've kept in touch all these years as they often came east to visit family.

Looking on down the list I come to the Rev. Dale H. Gustafson 1971-1976. I think their family involved a number of young kids. We were busy together with Sunday School activities so it may have been a mix of both.

Then along came the Rev. David L. Powers, 1977-1981, his lovely wife, Rose, and a daughter, Teresa, that all the congregation just loved to visit with at coffee hours. Their stay at Emanuel being 1977-1981. Emanuel recognized Pastor Powers for his development of our Caring Ministries Program to the elderly, hospitalized, shut-ins and visitations to assist the Pastor. It may have been a part of Power's preparation toward a further degree in his education. It was of great value to all of the congregation who committed to the program. They finally returned to Rock Island, IL to follow a greater achievement of interest in higher education.

The Rev. Darrell Urban and his family served Emanuel in the years 1982-1988. He would remain in the central Connecticut area serving as Pastor in other Lutheran Congregations in part. Their home remained in West Hartford where his wife, Nancy,

(continued on page 14)



Ushering Opportunity!

Have you been thinking of a way to meet people in church. . .like to smile and welcome people coming to worship. . .learn what it takes to make our congregation so special on Sunday mornings?

If you answered yes to the above, we have a great opportunity for you to join in this special ministry at the 8:00 or 10:00 a.m. services on Sunday mornings. Usually you will be asked to usher two months out of the year, and you will be trained for the first month. All you have to do is arrive 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the service and stay until 30 minutes following the conclusion of the service.

For more information please call Arnie Benson at (860) 645-0588 or send an email to: Mrfixit93@aol.com.

The Blue Sheets

Thank you to all who make good use of the blue "Welcome to Emanuel" insert sheet on Sundays. The office has received great responses to volunteer opportunities as well as important information that's passed on to the pastors and other staff members.

Please do make frequent use of these blue sheets. They really do serve as an excellent means of communication for us as a congregation. One request: if you have a comment or suggestion, please be sure to include your name, so that we can respond in a helpful way. Thanks!

Emanuel Archives - Remembering and Saluting some of Emanuel's Assistant Pastors of the past I remember - PART II (continued)

was involved with the nursery school of the West Hartford Congregational Church. The Rev. Carl A Brink, 1984 - , a true Son of Emanuel, was an Assistant Pastor into his years of retirement not long ago. He always seemed to be the right person at the right time of need on the church premise when needed; he passed on a few years ago. We knew him well as part of another church family now living in Waterford, CT. And at this time of year we'd see some of the greater family in Hebron, CT at Brink's Christmas Tree Farm where we'd find the perfect tree in less than a minute.

We end this archive remembrance with our Assistant Minister, the Rev. Hugh R. B. Haffenreffer, as he is Pastor now of the Lutheran Church in nearby Wethersfield, Saint Paul Lutheran. Our best memories remain when he came to Emanuel:

Late in November of 1990, the Homebuilders had a bus trip planned for Portsmouth, New Hampshire to see the Nutcracker Ballet. Our reason for such a trip was that the wife of our newly chosen associate pastor was the prima-ballerina of the dance company in that city and one we certainly desired to see and support her lovely performance. It would be a surprise visit by us to see her and give her flowers at the end of the dance. The bus was quickly filled by eager members of the church. Suddenly on the day before the trip there was a problem as we were hit by a major snowstorm that lasted all Friday and on into the night. People called all afternoon to find out if the trip

was still on and all we could say as head of the committee was that it was on as long as the bus company did not cancel out. And we did not hear a word from them. Our bus would leave at seven a.m. on the schedule.

The weather forecast made it look like a disaster but I knew I could pray about it to God and he would do something to help the situation. I got down on my knees in the darkened bedroom and prayed with all my heart and soul, (the kneeling seems to help), then went to sleep with sound of wind and snow howling outside the window. I awoke at 4:00 a.m. to the silent beauty of freshly fallen snow bathed in the light of the moon in a cloudless sky. The road was already plowed. A neighbor cleared the driveway before we left home, and even the church lot had been plowed so our cars could find parking. The bus arrived on time along with all our passengers for what became a beautiful and perfectly memorable trip to New Hampshire. Thanks be to God.

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

"Christ in our Home"

Be sure to look in the back of the Nave, near the Guest Book outside the Chapel and in Luther Hall on Sundays. There you will find the January, February, March complimentary issue of *Christ in our Home*, a wonderful devotional that offers daily opportunities for reflection and prayer. Each day provides a short Bible text with a brief, thoughtful message and simple prayer. It is especially helpful to read the texts and reflections written for Friday, Saturday and Sunday of each week as they prepare the reader for the lessons and Gospel texts that will be read in worship that Sunday morning.

Serving this Month for January

Acolyte and Crucifer

January 5	Jennie Livingston and Alycia St. John
January 12	Kyle O'Brien and Noah Fairchild
January 19	Max Welker and Trey Hazard
January 26	Maire Hollertz and Savion Jennings

Altar Flowers

January 5	Open
January 12	Open
January 19	Open
January 26	Open

Assisting Ministers

January 5	Barb Berg
January 12	Jo Topolski
January 19	Janice Favreau
January 26	Brook Nowak

Childcare in the Nursery

January 5	Open
January 12	Open
January 19	Open
January 26	Open

Children's Library

January 5	TBD
January 12	Jean Barresi
January 19	Diane Troutman
January 26	Diane Troutman

Coffee Hour

January 5	Mark and Margit Bobman and family, Celine Bailey Coons and Mike Coons, Robert and Diane Durant and family
January 12	Chet and Glenna Brodnicki, Terri and Joe Bienkowski, Rae Ann Gremel
January 19	<i>Altar Guild</i> - Eileen Mitchell
January 26	<i>Annual Meeting</i> - Pam and Randy Olson, Lynne and Paul Strecker, Elaine Strecker, Rich Sozanski

Communion Preparers

January 5	Bobbee Canfield and Rae Ann Gremel
January 12	Jeannette and Al Urban
January 19	Ellen Anderson and Rae Ann Gremel
January 26	Craig and Val McDonald

Communion Servers

January 5	Open
January 12	Open
January 19	Open
January 26	Open

Greeters

January 5	Richard and Susan Johnson
January 12	Peter, Becki, Brynn, Megan and Brandon Murphy
January 19	Dr. John and Audrey Remsberg
January 26	Rev. John and Dottie Marschhausen

Lectors - Sunday, 8:00 a.m.

January 5	Becky Thomas
January 12	Carol Dennler
January 19	Randy Olson
January 26	No 8:00 a.m. service

Lectors - Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

January 5	Chris and Zachary Bellis
January 12	Glenna and Chet Brodnicki
January 19	Bobbee Canfield and Rich Sozanski
January 26	Roland Johnson and Sam Allison

Sound and Recording

January 5	Tyler Gabriel
January 12	Kyle Bellis
January 19	Mal Doyle and Kelly Caldwell
January 26	Emma Barresi and Kelly Caldwell

Sunday School Aide Schedule

<u>January 5:</u>	PreK/Kindergarten - TBD, Grades 1 and 2 - TBD, Grades 3 and 4 - TBD, Grade 5 - TBD
<u>January 12:</u>	PreK/Kindergarten - TBD, Grades 1 and 2 - TBD, Grades 3 and 4 - TBD, Grade 5 - TBD
<u>January 19:</u>	PreK/Kindergarten - TBD, Grades 1 and 2 - TBD, Grades 3 and 4 - TBD, Grade 5 - TBD
<u>January 26:</u>	PreK/Kindergarten - TBD, Grades 1 and 2 - TBD, Grades 3 and 4 - TBD, Grade 5 - TBD

Ushers

8:00 a.m.	Katherine Haller
10:00 a.m.	Head Usher: Arnie Benson; Captain: Alan Urban Robert Graulich, Abby Stadtlander, William Lyon

God With Us

Emanuel Lutheran Church

311 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, CT 06106

Address Service Requested

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Growing in Faith Together.

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Opposite the State Capitol Grounds

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastor John Corgan: Cell Phone: 860-712-1895

Church Office: 860-525-0894

Fax: 860-246-3720

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. in the Chapel

10:00 a.m. in the Church

Sunday School

During the 10:00 a.m. service