

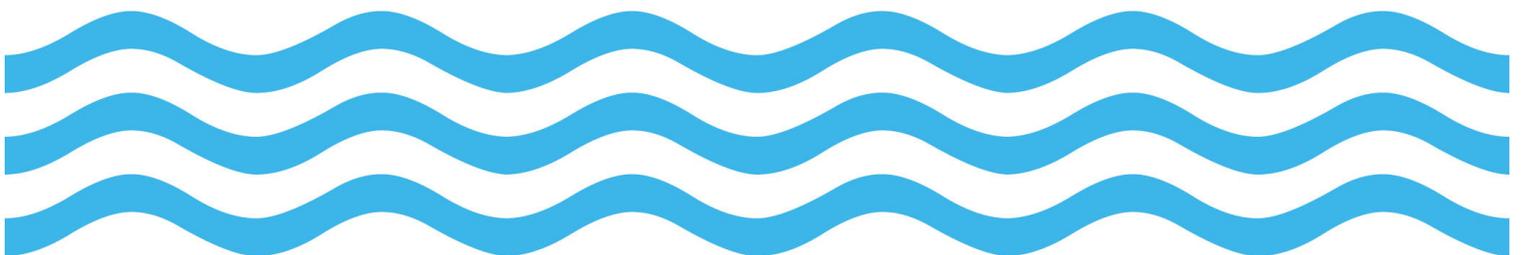
# GOD WITH US

The Newsletter of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Hartford



"Celebration of Baptisms"

January 11, 2015





## Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. in the Chapel

10:00 a.m. in the Church

## Thursday Bible Conversation

Please join us at 10:00 a.m. in the Adult Classroom of the Parish Building.

We'll be studying the text for the coming Sunday. Please see page 10 for a listing of texts.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/emanuelhartford>



**The Mission of Emanuel Lutheran Church**  
In response to Christ's love we:

**Worship God** in joyful celebration,  
**Invite others** into this community of Christ,  
**Serve those in need** in the community and in the world,  
**Nurture all people** in faith through Christian education,  
**Encourage and support one another** in Christian living and fellowship.

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# "Celebration of Baptisms"

January 11, 2015

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## From Pastor Corgan

Dear Friends in Christ,

I trust you enjoyed the celebration of Christmas, having had some opportunity to be with family and friends. On behalf of all of us on the staff of Emanuel, thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindnesses over the holidays!

This is an invitation to each of you - young, old and in-between, active and not-so, full of faith or loaded with questions and doubts. . . :

**Join us at Emanuel on Sunday, January 11, 2015 for a "Celebration of Baptisms."** On that Festival Sunday, the Baptism of Our Lord, following worship, all are invited to enjoy a catered (and free) luncheon in Luther Hall where, over a nice meal, we'll have a chance to deepen our relationships and connections with one another.

(Parents - please note that **this is an event for all the generations**, we are planning activities that are designed to include you, your children of all ages and everyone else.)



A focus of our time together after the meal will be **remembering and sharing stories related to baptisms** that we've experienced in our lives. We'll sit in small groups of five or six individuals of different generations and share our stories. You might recall a baptism of a child when she or he slept or cried through the whole service; or, a baptism which marked the final family gathering before you moved away; or, a baptism when a young adult stood before the congregation to be baptized into God's family. . . or, . . . ?

In preparation for this Baptismal event, gather your baptismal photos, mementoes, certificates, candles, dresses, etc., anything(s) that you'd be willing to bring for "show and tell," whatever will

help in your story-telling. **Sharing our faith stories with one another across the generations is one of the healthiest and most enjoyable activities for people and communities of faith.**

The wonder and power of God's gracious activity through baptismal waters and the Word can remind us of how we have been re-born, born from above, named and claimed as children of God through the sacrament of baptism, that together, we are united for ministry and service as God's baptized people.

Please plan to be in church for this special Baptismal Event on Sunday, January 11!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Corgan



## A Note from the Director of Christian Education

by Natalie Bloomquist

I think I can say that this Advent was the first time I was truly focused on the discipline of waiting. I will admit that I really didn't have a choice. After my surgery at the beginning of December, I was unable to do much of anything. What a gift!

Because the deadline for submission of articles for the newsletter comes before Emanuel's Celebration of the Nativity on December 21, you are reading this *after* experiencing the joy of the event, but I am writing *in anticipation*. Ever since the first Festival of the Nativity twenty years ago, I have had some area of responsibility every single year. This year I have been completely on the sidelines. What a gift!

The Holy Spirit is at work at Emanuel, and there are so many people of all ages sharing their time and talents so that the birth of our Savior may be proclaimed and His Love shared with everyone. They are equipped, energized, and excited to share their faith. What a gift!

Director Becki Murphy's desire to separate tradition for tradition's sake from the need to bring the story to hearers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – and to do so in an intergenerational way – is inspiring. We have Kelly Caldwell, a confirmation youth, empowered to serve as Assistant Director. We have Linnea Bloomquist, a Millennial (who is supposed to be disenchanted with the Church), combining her talent and faith to bring Emanuel's beloved

script to contemporary hearers. And we have the beauty of the generations (Sunday School children, Confirmation youth, teachers, parents, and members) coming together to lead us in celebrating Jesus' birth. What a gift!

Following the Narrative Lectionary also helped our Advent preparation for Baby Jesus. Having spent the last four months exploring Old Testament stories that point us to the need for the Christ Child, I believe our Sunday School children and Confirmation youth will find even deeper meaning and relevancy as we begin our journey with the Gospel of Matthew in January. I have heard from teachers how much more engaged the children are with the biblical stories because they have first been a part of the worshipping community's engagement with the story. And I have heard from parents how much easier it is to facilitate conversations of faith with their children and youth after spending time together discovering and wrestling with the Word and its meaning in their lives. What a gift!

## Parents of Toddlers

If your child has or will turn three years of age in 2015, he or she may be ready to start Sunday School at Emanuel. Please contact Natalie Bloomquist at [Natalie.bloomquist@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:Natalie.bloomquist@emanuelhartford.org) to learn more or to register your toddler.



Dear Emanuel,

*I am grateful for your prayers, cards, visits, and delicious food after my surgery. God has indeed blessed me with a loving and supportive faith community. I look forward to being back with you soon.*

*Yours in Christ,  
Natalie Bloomquist*



*Celebration of the Nativity, December 21, 2014.*

**Sunday, January 4, 2015 -  
Second Sunday of Christmas**

Services of Holy Communion  
at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.  
Prayers for Healing

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**Committee, Ministry or Task**

**Force Leader:** Your year-end report is due in the church office by **January 4, 2015**. Karen will send you some helpful information to help you get it done quickly and easily. Thanks!

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**At the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, January 18, please join us for the "Commissioning of Stephen Ministers."**

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**You are Invited**

You are invited to meet Katharine Miriam Chelali, newborn daughter of Leloucha and Rachid, on **Sunday, January 18**. The Chelali family will be in Luther Hall to greet you **at the coffee hour following the 10:00 a.m. service**. If you wish to bring a baby present or a monetary gift, your generosity would be appreciated. We are excited to greet Katharine and welcome her into our Emanuel family. Please join us.

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**The stories of our Faith Practices On January 18, at 9:15 a.m. in Luther Hall, between the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services,**

Vicar Dominic will be facilitating discussions on faith practices:

**Prayer; Food; Worship; Sacraments; Money; Service; and Community.** This is an opportunity for us to meet and engage one another in faith discussions in a way that is more enriching. One of the great ways of deepening the faith we profess on Sundays is to actually

encourage, create and cultivate an atmosphere where we can continue to talk about our faith in a safe and nurturing environment. Please feel free to join us once a month as we rethink some of the established practices of our faith, while snacking during coffee hour fellowship.

Future dates are: February 8, 2015; March 8, 2015; April 19, 2015; and May 17, 2015.

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**The Annual Meeting of Emanuel Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2015 following the service at 10:00 a.m. (no 8:00 a.m. service).**

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**Hats, Mittens and Gloves and Scarf Collection**

All winter long we will be collecting hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for the children who attend our SPROUT program. We do have some siblings who join us for breakfast, so the age group is Kindergarten - Grade 8, both boys and girls items needed.

The hats, mittens and gloves may be new or gently used, but the children definitely know which ones are new and they get selected first. This will be an on-going collection all winter, as the children often lose a mitten or glove over time, and need new ones as the cold weather lingers. Look for the container in Luther Hall. Many thanks!

**SPROUT Christmas a Success**

A heartfelt "thank you!" to all who participated in the Christmas stockings and gifts for the children who attend our SPROUT program. 38 stockings were stuffed and 38 gifts were purchased for the children who come to Emanuel each Saturday morning for a hot, nutritious breakfast, active play in the gym, and a lunch to bring home. It was a magical morning of happiness, anticipation and thanks from all the children, and it would not have been possible without the generosity of Emanuel's members. The children enjoyed the individual attention given to each stocking and were happy to receive a gift. For many of these children it is the only gift they receive. Many thanks to all who helped, including Lynn Sherman and Deborah Corgan for their help in wrapping all the gifts, and to Sarah Parmelee for her help in carrying the gifts home for some of the youngest children. It was a morning to feel good that we could put a smile on the faces of our church neighbors.

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**Emanuel's New Cookbook is Available to Purchase**

The cookbook can be purchased at coffee hour or through the church office. It is offered at only \$15. Remember to grab extras for gifts!

*-The Cookbook Committee*



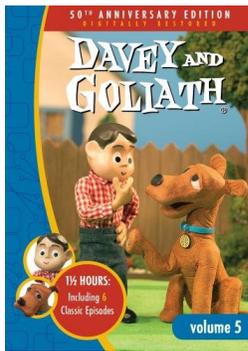
**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY HOOPS!**

Join Pastor Corgan, Vicar Dominic and others in the gym after worship for some basketball on the first Sunday of every month. The next date is **January 4 at 11:30 a.m.**

## Children's Library News

Our exploration of the Davey and Goliath DVDs continues this month with volumes 5 and 6. Volume 5 begins with Davey having a problem as he tries gardening in "Down on the Farm." He is neglectful of his chores and he learns that God sends sun and rain, but it's up to him to do the rest. Goliath falls in a river and Davey attempts to rescue him in "The Waterfall." Together they go over a waterfall and Davey must help an injured Goliath. In "Happy Landing," Davey compares his neighbor Hank to God after watching him do his job as an air traffic controller. It doesn't take long for Hank to set him straight. Davey lands a big scoop for his own small newspaper in "Editor-In-Chief." However, he turns the story over to the real newspaper's editor-in-chief. "Man of the House" finds Davey and Sally getting permission to stay by themselves when their parents leave the house for the day. It doesn't take Davey long to discover that rights and responsibility go hand in hand. Finally in this volume, Davey and Goliath get into a fight with a bully and his dog. In "Bully up a Tree," Davey finds this same bully in trouble and forgives him.

The "Big Apple" episode begins Volume 6. Davey learns to share with a fatherless farm boy named Bill. Davey must rescue Sally after a foot bridge they were walking on breaks in "The Bridge." You will have to watch "The Jickets" episode to find out what the Jickets club is. Davey is thrown out of the club because of a disagreement with other club members. When Sally's dad fixes her doll carriage instead of helping Davey build a lemonade



stand, a jealous Davey soon learns his father loves his children equally. Find out how he makes this discovery in "The Lemonade Stand". It's no surprise that "Hocus Pocus" involves magic. While helping his friend Lorenzo with his magic act, Davey learns that magicians only do tricks, but God's miracles are real.

Finally in "Good Neighbor," Davey's friends get "Good Neighbor" balloons while Davey proves that he is a real good neighbor by helping a lost girl find her way home.

Thanks to all of you who have returned the Christmas books you enjoyed over the holidays. A reminder to those who still have books that they can be returned to the basket in the Children's Library.

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### New Innovative Coffee Hour - Sign Up Today!

Please see the sign-up sheet on the table in Luther Hall. Coffee, cream and sugar are provided, and we're inviting members to share a plate of treats. In addition, if you see a creamer that needs to be refilled, or something that needs to be wiped up or washed, feel free to pitch in and help. Please note that the position of **Coffee Hour Coordinator**, either as an individual or as part of a team, is still open. If you're interested, please contact Terri Dwyer, Council Vice President at [terri.dwyer@comcast.net](mailto:terri.dwyer@comcast.net).

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### 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.

**MANNA needs your help.** We are looking for one or more people to take over this ministry. MANNA is a program of Hands on Hartford that serves and ministers to people in need in the city of Hartford. On the 5th Tuesday of some months in 2015, Emanuel is responsible for providing a dinner for approximately 100 – 120 individuals at Christ Church Cathedral, on the corner of Main and Church Streets in downtown Hartford. In 2015 we'll provide dinner four times. The dates are March 31, June 30, September 29 and December 29. If someone is willing to take on one or more of the dinners, please let me know. Maybe the college students home for the holidays may want to take the December 29, 2015 meal.

This is a wonderful opportunity for a hands-on experience to really feel that you are helping those less fortunate. If you are able to help, please e-mail Wendi Johnson at [wendilj@cox.net](mailto:wendilj@cox.net) or give her a call at (860) 257-1038 or (860) 977-8022. Your help is greatly appreciated.

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### Altar Flowers - \$45.00

The form to provide altar flowers is on page 19.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>January</i>			<b>1</b> <b>Happy New Year!</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> <b>Gym Closed</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Gym Closed</b>	<b>3</b> 10 am - 12 noon: SPROUT in Luther Hall/Gym
<b>4</b> <b>Services of Holy Communion 8 and 10 am</b> <b>At 10 am service: Prayers for Healing</b> <b>During the 10 am service: Sunday School</b> ■ See Chart Below ☞ See Chart Below 11:30 am: 1st Sunday Hoops! in the Gym	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm: Finance Committee Meeting	<b>6</b> <b>Epiphany of Our Lord</b> 9:30 am: Staff Meeting 7 pm: Special Council Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30 am: Crafty Painters in Luther Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl Ministry <b>10 am: Bible Conversation in the Parish Building Classroom</b> 6:30 pm: Intern Committee meeting in the Lounge Choir Rehearsals: 6:30 pm: Bell Choir 7:45 pm: Vocal Choir	<b>9</b> Friday Night Program 3:30 - 9:00 pm	<b>10</b> 10 am - 12 noon: SPROUT in Luther Hall/Gym
<b>11</b> <b>Baptism of Our Lord</b> <b>Services of Holy Communion, 8 and 10 am</b> <b>At 10 am: Holy Baptism of Ellyott Jordyn Martinez</b> <b>Sunday School</b> ■ See Chart Below ☞ See Chart Below 11:30 am: "Celebration of Baptism," in Luther Hall	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30 am: Staff Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>7 pm: Gathering of Confirmation Students and Parents</b>	<b>15</b> 9:30 am: Crafty Painters in Luther Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl Ministry <b>10 am: Bible Conversation in the Parish Building Classroom</b> Choir Rehearsals: 6:30 pm: Bell Choir 7:45 pm: Vocal Choir <b>Deadline for "God With Us"</b>	<b>16</b> Friday Night Program 3:30 - 9:00 pm	<b>17</b> 10 am - 12 noon: SPROUT in Luther Hall/Gym
<b>18</b> <b>Services of Holy Communion 8 and 10 am</b> 9:15 am: "Faith Practices" Discussion in the Sandberg Library with Vicar Dominic <b>At 10 am: Commissioning of Stephen Ministers</b> <b>Annual Reports available</b> ■ See Chart Below ☞ See Chart Below	<b>19</b> <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>20</b> 9:30 am: Staff Meeting 7 pm: Executive Committee Meeting in the Conference Room	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:30 am: Crafty Painters in Luther Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl Ministry <b>10 am: Bible Conversation in the Parish Building Classroom</b> Choir Rehearsals: 6:30 pm: Bell Choir 7:45 pm: Vocal Choir	<b>23</b> Friday Night Program 3:30 - 9:00 pm	<b>24</b> 10 am - 12 noon: SPROUT in Luther Hall/Gym
<b>25</b> <b>10 am: One Service of Holy Communion Dedication of Memorials (no 8 am service)</b> <b>11:30 am: Annual Meeting</b> ■ See Chart ☞ See Chart	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30 am: Staff Meeting 7 pm: Church Council Meeting in Luther Hall	<b>28</b> <b>7 pm: Gathering of Confirmation Students and Parents</b>	<b>29</b> 9:30 am: Crafty Painters in Luther Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl Ministry <b>10 am: Bible Conversation in the Parish Building Classroom</b> Choir Rehearsals: 6:30 pm: Bell Choir 7:45 pm: Vocal Choir	<b>30</b> Friday Night Program 3:30 - 9:00 pm	<b>31</b> 10 am - 12 noon: SPROUT in Luther Hall/Gym

**Chart**

- = Prosperity Congregation in the Chapel at 11:00 a.m.
- ☞ = "Sunday Conversation" in the Sandberg Library at 11:20 am

## **A Special Thank You from the 125th Anniversary Committee**

2014 was a wonderful year for Emanuel. It is difficult to believe that the 125th anniversary year has ended, though it is nice to take a breath and relax a bit!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the congregation who supported the events that took place. Think of the faithful members who bravely volunteered to chair these events! Our celebration began with the 100th performance of Lucia in 2013. Do you remember how much fun the picnic was? And how about the food at Taste of Emanuel? Fantastic! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Eleanor, Mal, Valerie and Lance made our 125th Anniversary Luncheon very special. The food was excellent (even the special order of wings smuggled in), the programming informative and fun (thank you, Roland, David and the "Pastors"), and Rae Ann's banners added to the festivities! A big "thank you" to the youth who volunteered to serve. That was a huge help. We cannot forget the Gardner Family and J. Timothy's . . . absolutely a wonderful day!

The annual craft fair highlighted an anniversary ornament and had a profit of approximately \$7,500 (perhaps a little more). Please say a special thank you to the men and women who make this happen each year. They are amazing and hard-working.

"God's work, our hands." Take a moment to think about that. So many people doing little tasks equals great things. Emanuel produced an anniversary logo, a new directory, had tee shirts and magnets made, debuted a new cookbook ( which is just about sold out!), hung a banner in the front of

the church for all to see (what a witness to the community) and our last 25 years of love, dedication and diversity was written. And so much more. Everyone was very busy. . .

Pastor's sermon a few weeks ago talked about sacrifice - time, talent and, yes, money. By sacrificing a little, Emanuel can accomplish a lot. Just look at what was done in 2014 and continues to be done as we read this. God's work is truly a priority at Emanuel.

With hearts filled with many thanks to you all,  
*Judy and the 125th Anniversary Committee*



## **“Sunday Conversation”**

**On Sundays at 11:20 a.m. in the Sandberg Library**

Please join us after the 10:00 a.m. worship service for a discussion group focusing on the Lectionary reading for that Sunday. Grab a cup of coffee and come on into the Sandberg Library - we welcome your thoughts and insight!

## **“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.

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## **Thrivent Action Team Supports Lucia Pageant**

Through the Thrivent Action Team program we were able to obtain \$250 for the purchase of food for the meals for our Pageant performers. A portion of the funds raised through the event will be used to support the Hartford MANNA program. Thank you Thrivent!

In addition, the Thrivent Action Team has provided \$250 in Seed Money for the Samaritan Fund, which offers assistance to those in need. If you would like to contribute to the Samaritan Fund, please do so with a check made out to Emanuel Lutheran Church, designated "Samaritan Fund." Thank you!



**On Sundays, in January, we'll offer prayers of support and gratitude for all those who provide services: electricians, plumbers, builders, contractors, auto mechanics, property caretakers, etc.**

# St. Lucia Festival

## 101 Years



**On December 5, 2014 Emanuel presented the St. Lucia Festival.**

**This is a Special Thank You to the following St. Lucia Festival Performers and Volunteers:**

All the youth who sang and danced

Producers Nancy Altschuler and Emily Van Scoy

Katie Cox for playing flute

Gary Bloomquist and David Altschuler for lighting

Karin Gottier for new scarves and aprons for the reception hostesses, and

Thanks to Terri Dwyer for new skirts

Karin Gottier for dance choreography and history

Reception Hostesses: Barbara Erskine, Nora Smith, Stephanie Allinson, Ellen Anderson, Bart Barresi, Rae Ann Gremel, Nancy Gray, Marjorie Johnson, Norma Johnson, Kathryn LaPointe, Tom LaPointe, Alison Manaresi, Keren Paquette, Amy Tomaro, Karen Toscano, Eileen Wygmans, John Wygmans, Lisa Martin

Kitchen Crew: Arnie Benson, Eric Carlson, Mark Martin, Richard Martin, Kurt Carlson, Mike Nowak

Thanks to Holly Aronson and her kitchen crew for feeding the cast between performances, and

Many thanks to Claudia Wieber and her volunteers for selling tickets and helping with institutional knowledge!



*2014 Lucias, Emma Barresi and Lindsay Altschuler (left to right).*

**January 4:**  
**Second Sunday of Christmas**  
“Flight to Egypt,”  
Matthew 2:13-23

**January 11:**  
**Baptism of Our Lord**  
“Jesus’ Baptism,”  
Matthew 3:1-17

**January 18:**  
**Second Sunday after Epiphany**  
“Tempted in the Wilderness,”  
Matthew 4:1-17

**January 25:**  
**Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
“Beatitudes”  
Matthew 5:1-20



**Hands on Hartford thanks Emanuel** for its recent donation of \$916.66. They want us to know that in the year 2014 our monthly gifts and food donations have helped to **build futures** for thousands of men, women and children of Hartford.

**Volunteer Opportunities on Sundays**

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

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

**Lectors:** Lynn Sherman,  
860-523-1702

Thank you Eileen and Lynn 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, administered by Pastor Corgan, is used to assist people in need.

**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!

**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.

**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.

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



**Baptized into God’s Family:**  
On Sunday, November 30, 2014, **Jeremiah Kannah**, son of Dimantry and Martha Kannah, was baptized at Emanuel. His godparents are Lynn and Lee Sherman. Proud brothers and sisters are Dalah, Yeadah, Betty (Gweyee), Monah, Georgia Neoh, Gifty, Harry, and Gohdy Nyama. Congratulations and God’s Blessings to the newly baptized and his family.

On Saturday, December 27, 2014, **Ella Elizabeth Corgan**, daughter of Amanda and Alex Corgan, was baptized in the Chapel at Muhlenberg College. Godparents are Erin Corgan and Paul Corgan. Grateful grandparents from Emanuel are Deborah and Pastor Corgan.

**An excerpt from a letter from Christ Church Cathedral to Emanuel:**

*“I write today to express our deep thanks and appreciation for the clothing, food and other kind expressions of caring we received from you. You are truly living God’s call to care for those less fortunate in our community.”*

On Sunday, December 28 Emanuel's College Students, Modeen Scholars, and Young Adults led us in worship. Our thanks to:

Julia Cutler - Greeter/  
Communion Assistant

Kelsey Hopper - Lector/Usher/  
Greeter

Lindsey Hopper- Usher/  
Offertory

Linnea Bloomquist - Usher/  
Communion Assistant

Emily Tenison - Children  
Sermon/Greeter

Rachel Tenison - Children  
Sermon

Kristina Leich- Usher/  
Communion Assistant

Kathryn Wieber - Usher/  
Communion Assistant

Mrudula Pedada - Usher/  
Greeter

Deepak Pedada - Usher/  
Offertory

Shivani Lal - Usher/Offertory

Hannah Bloomquist - Creed/  
Intercessory prayers

Carson Bloomquist - Greeter/  
Usher/Communion Assistant

Molly Swanson, Greeter

Paul Corgan, Greeter

We always thank  
GOD for all of you  
and continually  
mention you in  
our prayers.

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

### Look and See

"Christianity thinks of human individuals not as mere members of a group or items in a list, but as organs in a body - different from one another and each contributing what no other could"

-C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

### What's Your Passion?

Do you have a passion around a particular mission or service? Would you like to do something about hunger, literacy, social justice or any other social ministry? Now is your opportunity to do something about it!

If you have the passion we can help you make it happen. Our Social Ministry team will help you find the right plan, the appropriate resources, and other people who share your passion to help. We will help you take your idea and your passion and turn it into action.

Don't have a specific idea? We have a variety of opportunities available for your consideration. For example, we will need someone to take over coordination of Manna Meals for 2015. Our current Coordinator (Wendy Johnson) will help you

learn everything you need to know to help us serve 2 to 3 meals per year.

Please contact Pastor Corgan, Terri Dwyer, or Bob Graulich for more information.

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### 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,  
60th Anniversary  
Eileen and John Wygmans,  
January 23, 50th Anniversary

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### We are looking for a Coordinator for Meals for Recovery

If you are interested, please sign up on the blue "Welcome to Emanuel" insert on Sundays.

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### 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!

## AN INVITATION TO COMMISSIONING OF STEPHEN MINISTERS

On January 18, during the 10:00 a.m. service of worship, our congregation will commission our first four Stephen Ministers. Throughout history, when God has called people to special ministry, members of their community have commissioned them for the important new work they are taking on. Now we invite you to help carry on that biblical tradition by being a part of commissioning those who have responded to God's call to be part of Emanuel's Stephen Ministry.

Our Stephen Ministers have already completed substantial training to equip them for their task. We now lay hands on them, pray for them, and send them out to minister, asking for God's blessing and the Spirit's wisdom and power.

This commissioning service offers an opportunity to show our support for this ministry. Our Stephen Ministers will be depending on our support in the time ahead as they assume the duties of their ministry. How can we help?

First of all, we can all pray for our Stephen Ministers – **Richard Allison, Deborah Nye Corgan, Glenna Brodnicki and Chet Brodnicki** – and their care receivers. This ministry calls for both time and effort. At times, they may feel tired, discouraged, or convinced that they are not accomplishing anything. The assurance of our prayers and appreciation will help them keep moving forward.

We can also affirm and show our appreciation for this valuable ministry. We can tell our Stephen Ministers how much their hard work means to us, tell others how much we

value our Stephen Ministry here at Emanuel, and focus attention on our Stephen Ministers to bless and affirm them in special ways – as we do with all our commissioning services.

We can become involved in Stephen Ministry in many ways. Some of us may recognize a call to use our special gifts in this ministry and may want to become a Stephen Minister or a Stephen Leader ourselves. Others may accept the care of a Stephen Minister. We can be ministers of referral, watching for people in need and suggesting a Stephen Minister's care. We all can give our enthusiastic support by keeping Stephen Ministry always before us and by praying for and affirming those who have answered God's call to serve in this way.

As we commission our newly trained Stephen Ministers, let us thank God for all that they will bring to Emanuel in providing care to others, and let us promise them our daily prayers and support as we send them out to minister among us.

Again, please mark your calendars to join us at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 18, for our commissioning service.

In Jesus' Name,

Emanuel's Stephen Ministry Leaders -  
*Pastor Corgan, Elizabeth Kieschnick  
and Pastor Marschhausen*



### In Memoriam

**Richard Smith** died on December 2, 2014. A Memorial Service of Thanksgiving for his life was held at Brooklawn Funeral Home on December 13, 2014.

**Clarence "Skeets" Gustafson** died on December 19, 2014. A graveside service was held at Rose Hill Cemetery on December 27, 2014.

**Kenneth Johnson** died on December 26, 2014. A graveside service was held at Fairview Cemetery in West Hartford on December 31, 2014.

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



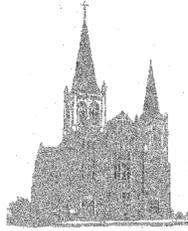
### Council Highlights

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

**THE CELEBRATION  
OF THE NATIVITY**  
DECEMBER 21, 2014!



**A generous gift for “SMILES,” more Lutheran housing for our elderly retired, LCW gives us a laugh on “Nominating,” and a family adventure with our new Associate Pastor; 1982 looks good!**



by John Starkes

Nothing could look better for our church at the beginning of a new year than to enter into a pledge campaign with the congregation for a promised goal of \$25,000, a gift to the SMILES of LCA (Lutheran Service Association) of their annual fund drive at a national level. There may have been smiles as well among the retired members of our congregation in their thought of new ideas on housing for their retirement at the Lutheran sites in Middletown and Southbury, Connecticut, nice locations for the simpler living of the later years.

Within the surroundings of our own church, the ladies of the LCW presented a comedy play for the evening called “The Nominating Committee,” not to be confused by Emanuel’s installation of our new Associate Pastor, the Rev. Darrell B. Urban, with a service of celebration on March 28. He was installed with the Rev. Henry Pawluk of Zion Lutheran Church of Waterbury as the guest preacher; Pastor Urban’s wife and daughters, Laura and Sarah were guests of honor at the reception that followed.

Later that spring, a travel group of Emanuel led by Pastor John Stadtlander visited the lands of Egypt and Israel. Also at that time, the local children of Emanuel’s neighborhood received some school work tutoring and enrichment at the church that was sponsored by CCC – Center City Churches. And there was also a celebration in Capitol Towers with a reception for its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a pleasing event for their good fortune!

The musical splendor of Emanuel’s chapel services welcomed the even grander tone of Allen Digital computer based organ, dedicated with a special service; all made possible by memorial donations gathered over a period of time mostly from those enjoying the earlier time of that peaceful service those worshippers desired.

**The Emanuel Archives continue with events of 1983:**

Perhaps before going on with this next year of sharing, I’d like to touch – first of all with Emanuel’s wonderful St. Lucia Festival that opens the Christmas holiday events

starting with Advent. My source of this series dealing with the archives of Emanuel, God With Us, by Norma Westlund Sandberg, has little to mention of Emanuel’s Lucia Pageant, but does have a fine photo print of the cast in the performance of 1988. Only recently have there been changes in the very formal Swedish program of songs and carols sung in the native tongue of the homeland, to add a few extra youngsters as the Tomtar elves. This year, 2014, they came and went back into the pantry where they belong. This year we had a lovely treat with a number of added school youngsters of the elementary level that sang and danced for our enjoyment, a wonderful performance in the colors of children in holiday dress! High-fives to our director, Jonathan Reuning-Scherer, and to all singing cast; and the ladies involved with refreshments and crafts for sale, etc. Just wonderful!

Lutherans probably of the central Connecticut area gathered for a special service of celebration held at St. Joseph’s Cathedral in Hartford. The all-Lutheran service was performed as “Together in Growth.” And here’s something most unusual to try – a 35 minute communion service in Emanuel’s Chapel on Wednesday mornings at 7:00 a.m. When all was completed, a continental breakfast was offered. I’m thinking it may have taken 35 minutes just to get off I-84 at the Capitol ramp for those that went for the bite! It was of note that a special service of healing was re-introduced in the Chapel.

An unknown contributor offered our own Emanuel’s Cookbook to *Yankee Magazine’s*, “Cookbook of the Month.” It generated orders from as far away as Hong Kong! “A great gift from the ladies of Emanuel.”

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

**A very old quilt** measuring approximately 7' x 8' was recently found in the lockers in the tunnel area. It is estimated that it is about 100 years old. No one seems to know where it came from or for what occasion it was made for.

It has the names of the congregation and some embroidery in each square. It is in excellent condition and is quite beautiful. I am looking for any information in regard to preserving it and some suggestions about hanging or displaying the quilt. Please email me at [rjmets@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjmets@sbcglobal.net) if you have any information.

Judy Johnson

# WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

On Sunday, December 7, these individuals were received as members of Emanuel. Please greet and welcome them into our faith community. Included here is some brief biographical information for each.

## CHRISTINE DALTON

My name is Christine Dalton. I was born and raised in CT. I recently graduated from Duke University and now work as an engineer at Pratt & Whitney. I love to travel, hike and bake. I am excited to join Emanuel because I was looking for an active Lutheran community in the Hartford area. Emmanuel has been very welcoming and I am grateful for that.

## ANDREA DUFOUR

## JOY AND TIM ELWELL

Joy-Previously a member at Village Lutheran Church (VLC) in Bronxville, NY, Joy served that congregation as their Parish Nurse Practitioner, and developed a Parish Health Ministry there. Joy has been a nurse for over 30 years and a Nurse Practitioner for over 20 years. She has a Doctor of Nursing Practice and teaches nursing at UConn in Storrs.

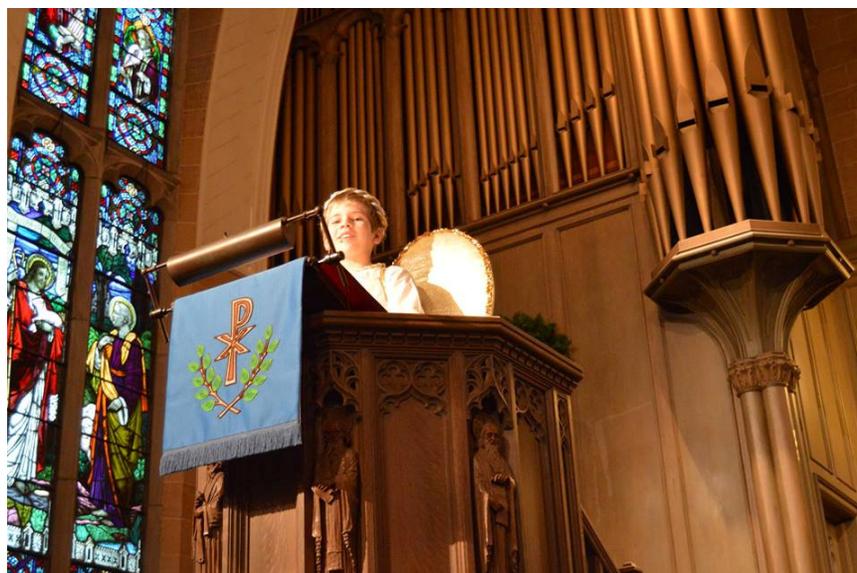
Tim-At the Village Lutheran Church, Tim served as the past President for a number of years and was an Atlantic District Deacon in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. As part of his ministry, he was responsible for running the Alpha Program for Southern Westchester, which was based at the VLC. He currently is the President and CEO of the Wethersfield-based Qualidigm, a mission-driven, not-for-profit, healthcare consulting company. He is a PhD candidate in organizational leadership.

Joy and Tim have been married for 30 years. They have 3 children, Diana (28), Ryan (25), and Ian (19). They live in downtown Hartford.



## REGINA SMITH

Regina grew up in Hartford and East Hartford and now lives in East Hartford. She works in that community at TJ Max. Regina has three children and three grandchildren. She loves spending time with her family, especially babysitting her grandchildren. Regina's mother, Joyce Milner, a faithful member of Emanuel, died in April of this year.



*Celebration of the Nativity, 2014*

## **An Important Update to the Congregation on the Stained Glass Windows Project**

The restoration process for Emanuel's beautiful stained glass windows is proceeding smoothly up in the studios of Stained Glass Resources in MA. (Check out the photos on Facebook or in Luther Hall.) Thankfully there have been no surprises with the actual glass! Back here at Emanuel, though, removal of the plastic overglazing on the exterior of the windows uncovered significant deterioration of the masonry window frames. While the glass itself had been protected over the years, the masonry surrounding the glass was deteriorating undetected behind the plastic.

AJP (structural engineer) and Joseph Gnazzo Company (exterior masonry contractor) have studied, sampled and run tests on the concrete window frames and brick facade on the east and west sides. Specifications for repairs were developed and then agreed upon with Stained Glass Resources. Progress has been made on the repair work this past month, but the cold weather now prevents any further work; repairs will resume in the spring. Given the scope of this unanticipated masonry work and the onset of colder weather, the reinstallation of the restored windows must also be postponed until Spring 2015. This is a huge disappointment for all of us, but a necessity. The masonry work, which impacts both concrete and brick, is absolutely essential, and must be completed prior to reinstallation of the windows.

Besides impacting the schedule, this unexpected work also impacts the budget. Back in May 2014, the congregation approved a project budget of \$285,000 which included approximately \$47,000 in

contingency to cover unknowns. The unforeseen masonry scope, which includes structural engineering, sandblasting, hazardous material removal, masonry repair/rebuilding, and elastomeric finish coating, along with a marginal contingency, totals \$92,000. This results in a funding shortfall of \$45,000. This past week we learned the great news that Emanuel's application for a \$15,000 Maintenance and Repair Grant from the CT Trust for Historic Preservation has been approved. This grant reduces the project shortfall to \$30,000.

To cover the \$30,000 shortfall for this non-discretionary work, at its 10/28/14 meeting, the Council approved the Finance Committee's recommendation to appropriate the following funds;

- \$5,715 (approximately) from the Church Building Preservation Fund (Endowment Fund #37, restricted for such purposes),
- \$15,000 from the 2014 annual funds made available from the Capital Needs Endowment (established from Capitol Towers proceeds),
- \$9,295 (approximately) from the Bunker bequest held in the Endowment's unrestricted Fund #50.

NOTE: Section 12.05 of Emanuel's Constitution outlines the Council's authority to make such appropriations. The Council is authorized to spend *restricted* endowment funds in accordance with a specific fund's criteria and is authorized to fully expend the funds made available annually from the Capital Needs Endowment on building/maintenance projects. Council is additionally authorized to expend a total not to exceed \$25,000 annually from unrestricted endowment for expenses not related to the operating budget.

With the scope of work for the east and west sides now clear, our engineer will focus on the structural analysis of the north wall, facing Capitol Avenue. The deterioration on this wall is much more extensive than the other facades, and impacts interior as well as exterior surfaces. Emanuel's Property Committee had begun assessing the north wall cracks separately from the window project, but once the plastic overglazing was removed, it became clear the window frame deterioration and the wall cracks should be addressed together. Our current target is to complete the engineering study, specify the remedies and possibly have contractor cost estimates by early January. The repair work for this facade falls beyond the scope and funding for the window project and will be presented to the congregation for action.

While unexpected, it is fortunate the masonry problems have been discovered now rather than after another decade of deterioration! Interestingly, our professional consultants have posited that the masonry deterioration likely has its roots in the materials used in 1924 construction -- the quality and consistency of concrete and caulk have come a long way since then. And how fortunate it is that Emanuel was awarded a \$15,000 grant and that we have the resources available to carry out the work needed to fix and preserve our 90-year-old building! We ask for everyone's understanding and patience as we make this wonderful church structure healthy and whole for the future.

If you have any questions about the project, please don't hesitate to ask either Mike Nowak or Jane Wunder.

## Serving in January

### Acolyte and Crucifer

Jan. 4	Brynn Murphy and Maire Hollertz
Jan. 11	Charles Sinche Luke Johnson
Jan. 18	Jennie Livingston Elizabeth Arcand
Jan. 25	Joel Reuning-Scherer Madeline Arcand

### Altar Flowers

Jan. 4	Open
Jan. 11	Open
Jan. 18	Open
Jan. 25	Open

### Assisting Ministers

Jan. 4	Brook Nowak
Jan. 11	Alan Meeds
Jan. 18	Malcolm Doyle
Jan. 25	Janice Favreau

### Childcare in the Nursery

Jan. 4	Open
Jan. 11	Open
Jan. 18	Open
Jan. 25	Open

### Children's Library

Jan. 4	Deborah Corgan
Jan. 11	Jean Barresi
Jan. 18	Carol Dennler
Jan. 25	Closed

### Coffee Hour

Jan. 4	Open
Jan. 11	Luncheon
Jan. 18	Lynn Sherman, Terri Dwyer, Deborah Corgan, Holly Aronson
Jan. 25	Open

### Communion Preparers

Jan. 4	Open
Jan. 11	Eileen Mitchell and Joan Feldmann
Jan. 18	Bobbee Canfield
Jan. 25	Craig and Val McDonald

### Communion Servers

Jan. 4	Open
Jan. 11	Open
Jan. 18	Open
Jan. 25	Open

### Greeters

Jan. 4	Dr. Craig and Valerie McDonald
Jan. 11	Patti and Mebret Farquhar
Jan. 18	Carol and Brad Dennler
Jan. 25	Shirley August and Peggy Zachariasen

### Lectors - 8:00 a.m.

Jan. 4	Carol Dennler
Jan. 11	Randy Olson
Jan. 18	Rosie Vojtek
Jan. 25	Bob Vojtek

### Lectors - 10:00 a.m.

Jan. 4	Claudia Wieber
Jan. 11	Elizabeth Kieschnick
Jan. 18	Lee Sherman
Jan. 25	Chris Bellis

### Sound and Recording

Jan. 4	Kyle Bellis
Jan. 11	Tyler Gabriel
Jan. 18	Lindsey Anderson
Jan. 25	Mal Doyle and Rhiannon Kiersznowski

### Sunday School Aide Schedule

Jan. 4	<b>PreSchool/ Kindergarten:</b> Deirdre Volk Allyson Graulich <b>Grades 1 and 2:</b> Lindsay Altschuler <b>Grades 3 and 4:</b> Jacob Johnson
Jan. 11	<b>PreSchool/ Kindergarten:</b> Rebekah Strand, Rebecca Johnson <b>Grades 1 and 2:</b> Matthew Graulich <b>Grades 3 and 4:</b> Matthew Kloss <b>Grade 5:</b> Toby Hollertz

Jan. 18

### PreSchool/

**Kindergarten:**  
Allyson Graulich  
**Grades 1 and 2:**  
Hannah Maynard  
**Grades 3 and 4:**  
Lindsay Varney

### Ushers

8:00 a.m. Katherine Haller  
10:00 a.m. Head Usher: Arnie  
Benson;  
Captain: Robert  
Johnson  
Ushers: Richard  
Berg, John Ogilvie,  
David Stetson



## Accessibility Moving Ahead

The project to improve Emanuel's accessibility is moving along! CJ Lawler, the architect with whom we had been working over the past five years, recently retired and as such, over the past six months the Building Committee has worked diligently to identify other architects, request and receive proposals, and interview three qualified architects. A final selection was recently made and the committee will now continue design and planning with Bostwick Architects located in Hartford. The committee is excited not only about some of the ideas Bostwick has already brought to the table, but also the grant writing resource he has engaged as part of the planning team. Their experience and knowledge about historic preservation grants in CT will be a valuable resource to Emanuel, with potentially significant financial outcomes.

Additionally, geotechnical surveys have been done and an environmental assessment is in progress. Design can proceed efficiently with all these resources in place, and we look forward to sharing drawings and ideas with the congregation as the design progresses.

The budget for this project is about \$1.4 million. As you may recall, \$1 million was set aside for accessibility from the Capitol Towers proceeds. An additional \$203,500 has been committed as matching funds to the \$205,000 raised in the capital campaign. To date, about 65% of the total amount pledged has been received - thank you! As the project kicks into high gear, we encourage everyone to continue to pay on their pledges for this project. In September you will receive the usual financial statement from church, indicating both your annual pledge as well as your pledge to the accessibility project, and payments made to date. If paying by check,

please simply note "access project" on the memo line. Labeled envelopes are also available in the pew racks and narthex. And of course, if you haven't yet contributed to this important project, additional gifts are most welcome!

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## A New Partner in Ministry

Emanuel has welcomed on a trial basis a new Liberian congregation, *Prosperity Chapel International*, to use our chapel as their worship space on Sundays from 11:00 a.m. until about 1:00 p.m. The Church Council approved this agreement at its July meeting with an initial 3-month trial for August through October. If this partnership goes well for the first three months, it could be extended into a second, 6-month trial period running through April of 2015.

*Prosperity Chapel International* draws its members from the Liberian immigrant community in the Greater Hartford area. They began using the chapel on August 3. Roughly 20-50 people worship on Sundays. The pastor is Pastor Klayee Juty.

Emanuel welcomes this new Christian faith-community to our facilities. We pray that God will bless their ministry and our relationship with them. If you have any questions about *Prosperity Chapel*

*International*, please ask Pastor Marschhausen, Ellen Anderson or Craig McDonald, who are serving as an informal committee on behalf of the Church Council and Pastor Corgan in relating to Pastor Juty and his congregation.

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## Message to Thrivent Members

As you may know with the name-change to Thrivent, there is a new program that has been initiated to benefit community organizations with \$250 of new Thrivent funding. (This is separate from your Choice Dollars.) The funding is called **Action Teams**. It gives each Thrivent member the opportunity to meet an unmet need in your community. It provides an easy way to take action. We are hoping that you would like to learn more about this exciting opportunity for Emanuel. For additional information, you can also go to the Thrivent website, sign in and search for Thrivent **Action Team**. If you would like more information about this please sign the Thrivent Sign-Up Sheet in Luther Hall. We will then schedule a meeting for interested members. Any questions, please check with Steve Strand, 860 305-5685 or Chet Brodnicki, 860 236-3050.

**One of Emanuel's beautiful stained glass windows in the process of being restored.**



**Grace Academy is Accepting Applications for Girls**

Grace Academy, a tuition-free, private, faith-based, highly successful girls middle school located at 277 Main St. in Hartford, is accepting applications for girls entering 5<sup>th</sup> Grade for the 2015-16 school year. Admission in Grade 6 is on a space-available basis. It is our mission to develop the kinds of personal and educational support that will ensure your daughter’s continuing success in high school and college. Join us at our next

**Open House on Thursday, January 22 at 6:00 p.m.** or contact the school office at 860-263-7535 for application information or visit our website:  
[www.GraceAcademyHartford.org](http://www.GraceAcademyHartford.org).  
Grace Academy – a Star of Hope in Hartford!

*The CT Women's Hall of Fame presented its Founding President's Award to Grace Academy for its work in "Providing a college-focused education with a rigorous curriculum and high behavioral expectations." Geena Clonan, the founder of CT Women's Hall of Fame in 1993, presented Matt Fitzsimons with the award at the Connecticut Convention Center on Wednesday, October 30, 2014.*

*"We are so impressed with and inspired by the incredible work Grace Academy is doing to empower young women," says Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame executive director Katherine Wiltshire. "They affirm the self-worth of each child and foster traits that will allow them to succeed in the difficult world of an urban environment."*



**Please visit our re-released website at [www.emanuelhartford.org](http://www.emanuelhartford.org).**

The website can be added as a button on your SmartPhone or tablet. Recent updates to the website include Sermons, FAQ's, and Newsletters.

Listen to MP3 files:  
<http://emanuelhartford.org/worship/sermons/>

Frequently Asked Questions:  
<http://emanuelhartford.org/aboutus/faqs-2/>

Calendar on page 7 of our newsletter, "God With Us":

Please contact **Becki Murphy** at [beckimurphy@ymail.com](mailto:beckimurphy@ymail.com) if you have any questions .

**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 525-0894

**God With Us**

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

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**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**

Sunday School is in session during  
the 10:00 a.m. Service of Worship