

# GOD WITH US

The Newsletter of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Hartford



## kick off

# 2016

with your church family!

Please join us for a Luncheon in Luther Hall  
on Sunday, January 17, following the  
**10:00 a.m. Service.** Together we'll kick off  
the New Year with a short presentation on  
top ranking discussion topics from the  
summer's small group gatherings and an  
opportunity to talk about the year ahead.

Please sign-up in Luther Hall or by emailing,  
[becki.murphy@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:becki.murphy@emanuelhartford.org)  
by January 11, 2016. (Please see page 10  
for more information)



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**Sunday Worship Schedule**  
**8:00 a.m. in the Chapel + 10:00 a.m. in the Church**

**Thursday Bible Conversation will be held at**  
**10:00 a.m. in the Nursery every Thursday.**



Connect with us on Facebook!  
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**The Mission of Emanuel Lutheran Church**  
**In response to Christ's love we:**

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

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## FROM PASTOR CORGAN

Dear Friends in Christ,

What is it that gets you up and out of bed every day? What motivates you to deal with life? What inspires you, not only to live out the day before you, but to make the most of it?

Life, as we all know, can be challenging and, at times, so difficult. Your challenges and difficulties may be different from mine, but we can all agree, I think, life is not easy.

So, what is it that keeps us going, motivates and encourages us?

Is there a common source of hope, of motivation, of inspiration for all of us?

As people of faith, our attention during this time of year is drawn to the Epiphany word of light.

The Day of the Epiphany, January 6 is a celebration of the manifestation of Christ to the

world. Magi, drawn by the light of a bright star, visit the Christ Child and pay him homage.

From Isaiah 60, a text for the Day of the Epiphany:

**"Arise shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you and his glory will appear over you."**

In the midst of the very real darkness of this world, the darkness that, at times, penetrates and permeates our lives, God has sent light.

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This is God's Light:  
a light to guide the way,  
a light to shine in this world and  
in our lives, a light **that shines in defiance of the darkness** and will  
not be overcome.

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This light has come in the one who is called "the Light of the World."

This light mysteriously took on human form as the incarnate God in the one who brought light through a life, death and resurrection.

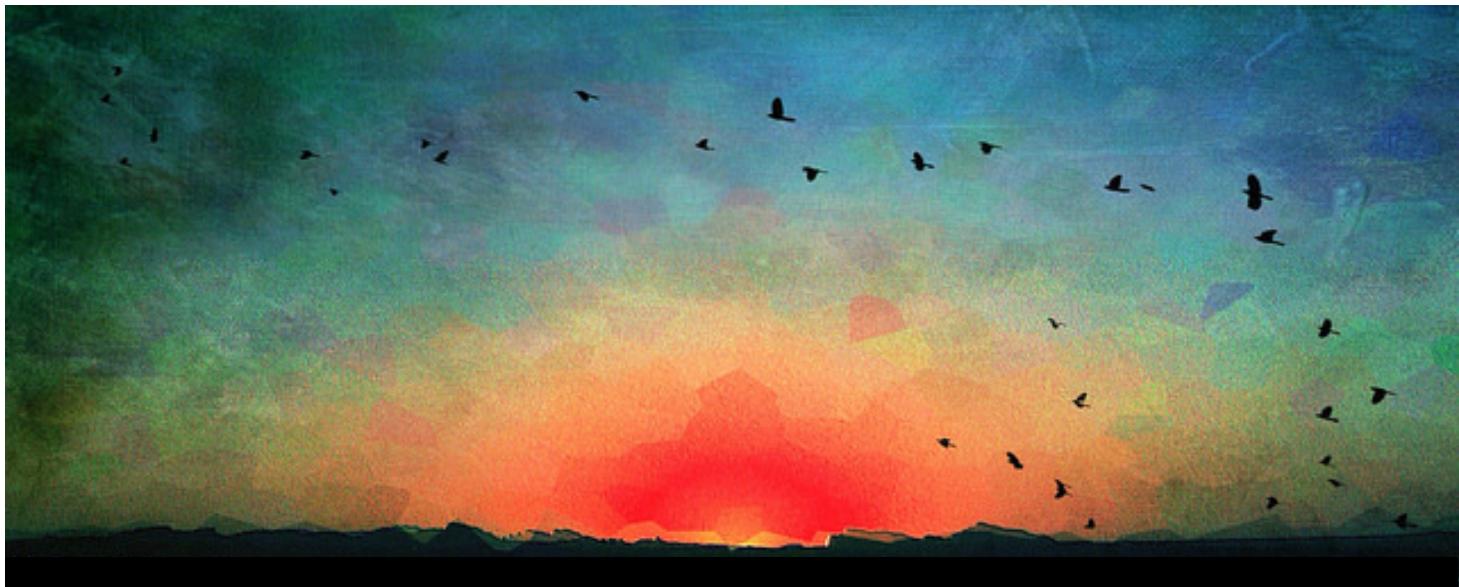
This light is the very presence of the living God here and now in this world.

**So, dear friends in Christ, arise shine, your light has come!**

The Light of Christ is the light of your life, the light of your soul, the light for this suffering world, the light for all of God's people.

Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Corgan



## Sunday School News

By Natalie Bloomquist

This month, except for the first Sunday, our SPARK classroom lessons will not align directly with the Narrative Lectionary texts we read in worship. In class the children will explore different stories with the same theme of Jesus' healing and teaching.

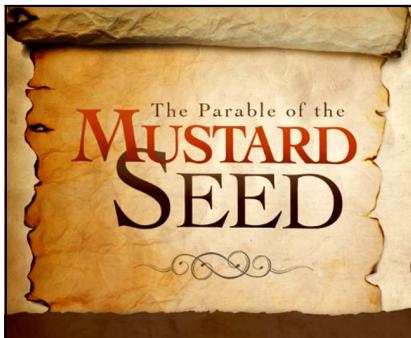
### January lessons:

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

### January 3: Teaching and Healing.

The Holy Spirit is alive in all of us. This story shows Jesus giving evil a time out! Jesus has power over unclean spirits and when Jesus commands them out of people, they obey. Mark 1:21-28

**January 10: Jesus Heals.** Sometimes it's hard to trust, but Jesus cares and hears our prayers. Mark 1:29-39  
PreSchool-Kindergarten visit the Children's Library.



**January 17: A Seed of Faith.** Jesus told stories to help our faith grow. Mustard seeds are tiny, but just like our faith they can grow big and strong. Luke 17:5-10  
Grades 1 and 2 visit the Children's Library.

**January 24: Woman at the Well.** Everyone may receive living water, God's word, from Jesus. The woman at the well learns that Jesus came for all people everywhere. She's so

happy she goes and shares the good news with others. We can share the good news, too!

John 4:5-42

Grades 3 and 4 visit the Children's Library.

**January 31: Mark 6:1-29.** The children will remain in worship.

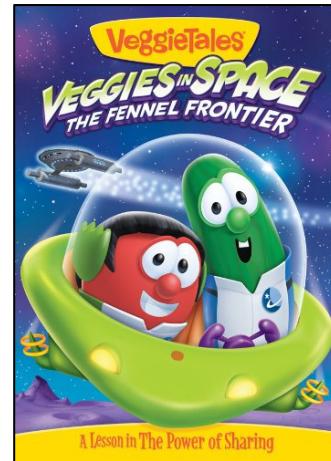
### Prayer for the Month:

*Dear Jesus, We know the Holy Spirit surrounds us every day. Fill us with your wisdom as we go out into the world sharing your name, and help us when we need healing.*

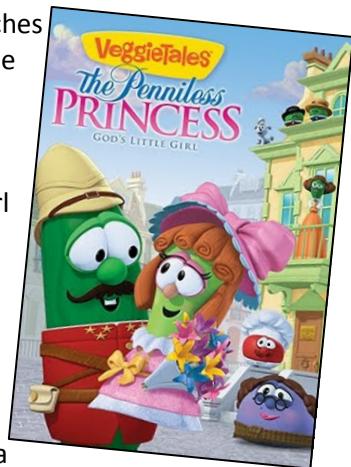
*In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### Children's Library News

More Veggie Tales have arrived! We are excited about having five new Veggie Tale DVD adventures in the library. Larry the Cucumber stars as MacLarry, a misfit inventor, in "MacLarry and the Stinky Cheese Battle." He is stuck in the middle of two tribes of pranksters who are in danger of being overcome by the stinkiest cheese in the land. Will MacLarry's God-given talents save them all from the rotten cheddar? This is an important lesson in getting along with others. A lesson in patience is learned in "Abe and the Amazing Promise." Bob the Tomato is trying to bring the story of Abraham and Sarah to life but camels and French peas keep interfering and everyone's patience is tested. Children will learn that while being patient isn't always easy, the reward is always worth the wait. "Pistachio the Little Boy That Woodn't" is a lesson in listening to your parents. Like Pinocchio, Pistachio is a little wooden boy who comes to life. When he tries to do things his way he lands in a "whale" of a situation. Hopefully he will listen to his father Gelato in time to save his family from becoming fish food.



The power of sharing is learned in "Veggies in Space: the Fennel Frontier." Captain Cuke (Larry) and first officer Mr. Spork (Bob) travel to where no other Veggie has ever been. They take on Luntar the Looter who steals power and are surprised when they find out why he needs the power. Bob and Larry learn the powerful lesson that if you have enough to spare, you have enough to share. "The Penniless Princess" teaches a lesson in true worth. Sara Crewe has everything that a little girl could want. However, her life takes a turn and she goes from riches to rags. Hopefully Sara

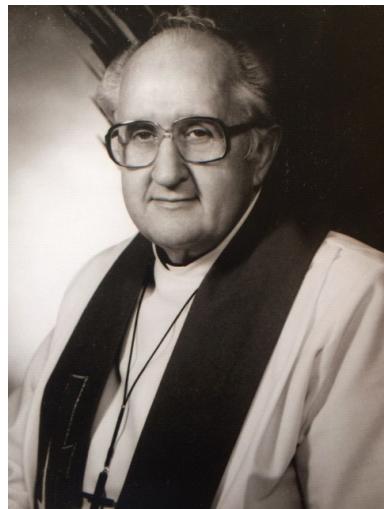


will realize that her true worth lies not in what she has, but in what is in her heart. Come and check out these new DVDs along with several new Veggie books that have also arrived. Thank you to all who have returned the Christmas books that were taken out. If you still have them, please return them at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Sometimes I think a few of my seminary professors would be a bit leery if they saw how I teach confirmation classes.

But then I think about my Lutheran Confessions professor who was very clear in what he wanted us to do when we entered rostered ministry: “Preach the damn gospel!” No, I don’t use that language when I’m leading our confirmation gatherings, but I hope I’m doing what he told me to do – in ways that meet the youth and the parents where they are so that we can then journey together in a life of faith and discipleship.

And then I think about my dad. He was my pastor and my confirmation teacher. I’m pretty sure I frustrated him each Saturday morning as we studied scripture and Luther’s *Small Catechism* (I could be kind of an annoying ‘pastor’s kid’). But as I think back and reflect on the conversations my church friends and I had with him, I don’t think he minded the challenging questions and ridiculous humor. He was a man of deep faith who lived out his faith with amazing compassion and astounding unconditional love. Like me, I think he struggled with what catechetical instruction was supposed to look like and how he actually felt called to meet us in our daily lives with all the questions, struggles to find a loving God in a broken world, and deep hunger to truly know and trust Jesus.



Just look at him. I mean, no one who knew him – Lutheran or non-Lutheran, Christian or non-Christian – could look into his eyes and have any doubt that he believed in an unconditionally loving God and that he was willing to listen “until the cows came home” to your thoughts and doubts and questions. And then, without any judgment he would share his faith experiences in a way that shared God’s love authentically and compassionately.



So it was with inspiration from my professors, my dad and a seminary classmate ([pastorkeithanderson.net](http://pastorkeithanderson.net)) that I let the confirmation families loose with emojis to communicate their understanding of Isaiah’s message from God that even though God’s people had broken God’s heart, there was still hope and that they could trust that God was with them even when it felt like God was nowhere around. I was blown away by the conversations and the work that went into their emoji reflections. Take a look and then find some of our confirmation youth and ask them to share their thoughts. I guarantee it will be time well spent.



## Confirmation News (continued)



# SAVE THE DATE

February 10, 2016

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2016

4:00 p.m. Recital,

"Songs We Love" at Emanuel

Please see an upcoming issue of our newsletter for more information from Director of Music, Jonathan Reuning-Scherer.

# Thank You!

We respectfully thank everyone who made the St. Lucia Festival the wonderful evening it was this year! Thank you to everyone who gave of their time and talent.

Thank you to these people who helped the St. Lucia Reception:

Karin Gottier, who sewed the new folk costume bags; Lee and Lynn Sherman who commandeered the ginger cookies and St. Lucia buns; Eric Carlson who helped purchase and move the 20 bags of groceries up to the gym; Barbara Erskine, Karin and Nelson Gottier, and Carol Johnson who helped decorate the gym.

The reception ladies included: Ruth Anderson, Ellen Anderson, Sue Ekwall, Rae Ann Gremel, Nancy Gray, Marjorie Johnson, Norma Johnson, Elaine Krause, Allison Manaresi, and Annemarie Riemer.

The "punch" men included: Bart Barresi, Nelson Gottier, and Mike Nowak

The clean-up crew included: Arnie Benson, Rick Berg, Eric Carlson, Rich Martin and Ross Smith.

The St. Lucia Reception Coordinator was Lisa Martin.



*On behalf of the staff members here at Emanuel, I extend our thanks for your expressions of kindness and generosity this Christmas season. We are grateful for you and our shared ministry.*  
*-Pastor Corgan*

## Council Highlights

### November Church Council Highlights

Council President Mark Hopper convened the meeting and Vicar Dominic led devotions on Acts 2, closing with prayer. The minutes of the October 27, 2015 Council meeting were accepted unanimously.

#### Courtyard & Memorial Garden

**Project:** Bernie Johnson from the Property Committee presented plans for the Courtyard and Memorial Garden project including full renovation of all landscaping, new pavers, irrigation, fencing and granite memorial stones with the names of those interred in the Memorial Garden. As part of the project, engraved memorial pavers will be sold for \$100 each during a campaign that will run through the end of January. The total project cost is approximately \$65,000, funded by the Justina and Evert Olson bequest, the Rev. Eugene Mitchell Memorial Garden fund, income from the sale of the engraved pavers, and other donations. Work is expected to begin in the spring of 2016 with completion by Memorial Day. After a brief discussion, a motion to approve the project as submitted was made and unanimously approved.

**Senior Pastor's report:** Pastor Corgan reported that his mortgage will be refinanced and the loan from Emanuel repaid. Pastor expressed appreciation to the Finance Committee, particularly Gary Bloomquist, and to Attorney Robert Hirtle, for their assistance over the years with the mortgages the Corgans have had with Emanuel.

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Marschhausen presented the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Budget Performance for October, noting nothing unusual in the report.

The Faith Budget and Pledge line items are behind budget projections.

President Hopper noted that a temporary loan from endowment to the operating fund to cover November expenses was approved via e-mail. It is anticipated that the entire loan amount will be repaid prior to year-end.

#### Memorial Bequest Amendment:

Pastor Corgan presented an amendment to the motion of October 27, 2015 regarding the Justina and Evert Olson Bequest. The amendment proposed that \$80,000 (instead of \$100,000) be directed to Emanuel's Sandberg Endowment Fund, and that \$20,000 be directed to the World Hunger Appeal of the ELCA. This motion does not change the other allocations approved nor the total amount of funds allocated. After brief discussion the amended motion was approved.

**Committee Organization Structure:** President Hopper explained the need for committees with direct financial responsibilities to report regularly to Council and to document their meetings using formal minutes. He also distributed an organization chart to help define relationships.

#### Audit Report & Recommendations:

Indepth discussion followed a presentation by Treasurer Marschhausen and Audit Committee members Lanard Krause and Russell Bjorklund on recommendations resulting from an October audit planning meeting with our auditor, Blum Shapiro. To address three primary areas of concern, a resolution was proposed, outlining the establishment of three special task forces as follows:

1. An Investment Management Task Force to interview/recommend one single new investment manager/advisor for Emanuel's assets and to update the investment policy and strategy.

2. A Task Force for Investment & Financial Policy and Controls to specifically address the relationship between the financial staff, the officers of the congregation, the Finance and Investment Committees and the Congregation Council, and to develop clear guidelines for management, oversight and reporting and record-keeping responsibilities.

3. A Task Force on Structure and Term Limits to establish term limits for all officers of the congregation, the financial secretary, and the chairs/members of committees with fiduciary responsibilities, and to look at Emanuel's Constitution, By-Laws and Continuing Resolutions for any changes required to support term limit provisions.

Each task force will have members of the congregation as well as Council members, and will submit progress reports monthly to the Council, with final recommendations due by the end of March. Each task force was adopted with only one dissenting vote on the first task force.

**Parking Lot License Agreement:** Jane Wunder reported that the four-year extension of the lease agreement to use the State parking lot was approved by the State for a yearly fee of \$1.00.

**315 Capitol Avenue Update:** Jane Wunder reported that 315 Capitol Avenue is on the market with only one actual showing. Since there has been very little interest expressed, our realtor suggested a reduction in price. Pastor Corgan is also opening conversations with Richard Henken, CEO of Schochet Associates, owners of Capitol Towers, regarding current parking issues and possible solutions that could involve 315 Capitol Avenue.

*(Continued on next page)*

**Outreach and Youth Report:** Vicar Dominic Smyth has focused on building relationships with the youth and their parents, and is working with four young adults as members of the Youth Committee. His outreach efforts have involved building relationships in the neighborhood/city by involvement in interfaith groups and becoming familiar with the activities of the Neighborhood Revitalization Zone (NRZ) and Foodshare Hunger Action Teams. He is creating a working group composed of interested Emanuel members. In addition to providing pastoral care for residents of Capitol Towers, he will be setting up a prayer meeting, service, or Bible study based on approval by the Capitol Towers management.

**Other Business:** Pastor Corgan reported on the Generosity Campaign results to date. A total of 129 pledges have been received amounting to \$317,824. Ninety (90) pledging units from 2015 have yet to make a pledge for 2016. The Stewardship Committee will be making follow-up calls.

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## December Church Council Highlights

Council President Mark Hopper called the meeting to order and Pastor Marschhausen led devotions. The minutes of the November 17, 2015 Council meeting were accepted unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Marschhausen reported that Pastor Corgan's mortgage has been refinanced and the pay-off check has been received. A total of \$502,636 has been received from the Olson bequest and is in a TD Ameritrade Mutual Fund account. Amounts previously designated to be given to external parties (World Hunger, New England Synod, Calumet) are being liquidated.

**Task Force Update:** Pastor Corgan, President Hopper, and Jane Wunder reported their recommendations for the three task forces as outlined and approved last month:

1. The task force for choosing a new Investment Manager and updating investment strategy will be chaired by Tim Elwell. Other members include Pastor Marschhausen, Bobbee Canfield, Dean Orton, Peter Larson, Paul Strecker, Chet Brodnicki and Senior Pastor John Corgan serving ex officio. This task force will complete its work and report back to Council by the February 2016 Council meeting.
2. The task force for creating policies for management, oversight and control will be chaired by Bob Graulich. Other committee members are Tim Elwell, Pastor Marschhausen, Jim Flanders, Ken Swanson, David Parmelee, and Lynn Strecker. This task force will complete its work and report back to Council by the March 2016 Council meeting.
3. The task force to establish term limits and update the Emanuel Constitution as needed to reflect term limit provisions will be chaired by Peter Murphy. Other members thus far include Chet Brodnicki and Mark Hollertz. An additional council member and 2 congregational members will be identified. This task force will complete its work and report back to Council by the March 2016 Council meeting.

Three motions were made and passed unanimously to adopt each of the above recommendations.

**Nominating Committee Update:** President Hopper reported that the maximum number of new members for Council 2016 would be 5 based on vacancies created by expiring terms and resignations.

**Transition Planning:** The Council went into Executive Session to discuss the transition plan related to Pastor Corgan's retirement, the result of which was a decision to pursue the option of an Interim Pastor. In open session it was moved that Emanuel's Council President communicate with Bishop Hazelwood that ELC requests an Interim Pastor to serve here once Pastor Corgan retires and requests additional information on the optional Consultant. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.



## SPROUT Christmas Thanks

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed towards Christmas gifts and stockings for the children who attend our SPROUT program. We handed out 35 gifts and stockings to our neighborhood children. They were truly grateful for the presents, and once again amazed that people who didn't even know them bought them a gift. The parents were given \$50.00 gift cards to a local grocery store and expressed their appreciation of the help that gave them in providing a Christmas dinner. We are blessed as a church to have so much, and sharing with our church neighbors is a meaningful way we can show our thanks



**Llewellyn Anderson** died on December 25, 2015. A funeral service was held on January 2, 2016 at Sheehan-Hilborn-Breen Funeral Home.

# Connecting with the Community

Emanuel has developed important ties to the community through hands-on ministries like SPROUT, Friday Night Program, MANNA Meals and Church by the Pond, building one-on-one relationships with people in need in the surrounding neighborhood and city. Small groups of Emanuel members faithfully carry out ministry ranging from weekly deliveries of food to the Food Bank to tutoring children in the Hartford school system as part of the Interfaith Education Task Force.

The opportunity for ministry is all around us! We're fortunate to also be able to connect with the community in other ways by making our facilities available to outside groups. Emanuel is a busy place - just a sampling of the groups that depend on Emanuel's space for their activities;

- **Grace Academy** – This small private girls' school practices basketball in our gymnasium 3 days a week. In early 2016, they'll hold several of their games here.
- **Neonatal Bereavement** – For several years, this group has gathered in our lounge monthly to support families dealing with the tragic loss of a baby.
- **CT Society of Genealogists** – Meeting monthly, this group makes genealogy and genealogical resources its focus.
- **Families First** – As a new grassroots organization, it is working towards a goal of preserving state funding that underwrites lifelong supports for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **Swedish Relief Society** – At 100+ years old, the group continues to meet to identify and provide financial relief to those of Scandinavian ancestry in need.



## Billings Forge Community Works –

This community partner occasionally uses our Luther Hall kitchen facilities for preparation of food for special events (when the capacity of their kitchens is exceeded).

- **Hartt School** – Recently, several instructors from the Hartt School of Music were heard in recital in Emanuel's nave. With the fine new Ritmuller piano and the upgraded Austin organ, Emanuel's nave may be the venue for more such musical events.
- **SNAP** — Each Thursday SNAP program coordinators use Emanuel as a satellite location to help people make application for food assistance. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is a nutrition program that helps low-income individuals and families buy food.

There are lots of events and activities that get hosted at Emanuel – all of these give us ample opportunity to be good stewards of the resources God has blessed this congregation with (buildings, musical equipment, people). It is an exciting thing to have the church bustling with such activities, bringing Emanuel members, visitors and community together!

## For the Month of January

## Bible Readings

**January 3**

**Second Sunday of Christmas**

**"Jesus' Ministry Begun"**

**Mark 1:21-45**

**January 10**

**Baptism of Our Lord**

**"Jesus Heals and Teaches"**

**Mark 2:1-22**

**January 17**

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**"Parables in Mark"**

**Mark 4:1-34**

**January 24**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

**"Jairus' Daughter Healed"**

**Mark 5:21-43**

**January 31**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**"Death of John the Baptist"**

**Mark 6:1-29**



## SPROUT

This program invites children from our Frog Hollow neighborhood to come on Saturday mornings, eat a healthy breakfast, play active games in the gym and leave with a bagged lunch. Please contact Terri Dwyer at (860)521-0714 or e-mail her at [terri.dwyer@comcast.net](mailto:terri.dwyer@comcast.net) for more information.



# kick off

# 2016

with your  
church family!

## From Becki, Coordinator of Ministries

Happy NEW Year! Each year my family creates a photo calendar filled with special memories from the prior year. At the end of each year we write down our favorite memories and goals for the new year. *Are all our favorite memories the same? Do we always accomplish our goals? No and no way!* As with most things, the process is way more important than the product. It's more about taking time to listen to each other, review highlights from the year and start a conversation about how we can support one another in the year ahead.

**Let's kick off 2016 as a church family on Sunday, January 17 after the 10:00 a.m. service in Luther Hall for a luncheon** (paid for by the Swanson-Lindhal Fund). This lunch will continue the discussions that began with the small-group conversations this past summer, and will address *What's Emanuel Lutheran Church doing well? Where can we make improvements?*

During this luncheon I'll share a short presentation on topics that bubbled to the top of these past conversations. *Are these the same today? Have they changed?* This luncheon provides the time our church family needs to gather together and enter healthy conversations about the past, present and future filled with thanksgiving and hope for the year ahead.

Sign-up online or by emailing  
[becki.murphy@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:becki.murphy@emanuelhartford.org)

## An Update on Emanuel's Financial Processes

Back in September, members were invited to attend a "town hall" meeting at which our Financial Manager, outside accountant Eileen Hurley, explained the new financial formats for the accounting of all Emanuel's finances including; operating expenses, capital projects, all revenue, and transactions in the investment (endowment) accounts. With all activities flowing through one set of books, this will provide a readily available, whole picture of Emanuel's finances and will be consistent with "generally accepted accounting practices" (GAAP), as prescribed by Emanuel's auditor, Blum Shapiro, and our Audit Committee, Russ Bjorklund and Lanny Krause. Progress has been steady towards accomplishing this, including developing a corresponding format for the 2016 budget.

In a continuing effort to keep the congregation informed of the Council's work with Blum Shapiro and the Audit Committee, we wanted to update the congregation on other recent developments. In response to firm recommendations from our auditor, Council has formed three short term task forces for the following purposes:

1. To move Emanuel's assets to a single new investment manager/advisor and to update Emanuel's investment policy, enabling effective policy compliance, communication and reporting.
2. To define the important responsibilities of and relationships between all those at Emanuel with financial responsibility; staff, officers, Church Council, and the Finance, Investment, Property, Worship and Stewardship Committees, and to identify clear guidelines for management, oversight and record keeping functions.

3. To establish term limits for all members/officers of committees with fiduciary responsibilities, including any consequent changes to the Constitution/By Laws, and to review ways to recruit/engage new members to support the healthy cycle of term limits.

Due in the first quarter of 2016, the recommendations of each task force will be presented and acted on by Council. These three important initiatives will continue to move Emanuel towards the goal of effective, transparent, auditable financial books and processes. Should you have any general or specific questions regarding these efforts, please contact our treasurer Pastor Marschhausen, Audit Committee members Russ Bjorklund and Lanny Krause, Council president Mark Hopper or vice president Chet Brodnicki, or any member of the Council.

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**An important reminder to Committee, Ministry or Task Forces leaders: The church office will be completing the 2015 Annual Report by Friday, January 15, so please provide your year end report. Thank you.**

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**A Blood Pressure Screening by our Parish Health Ministers will be held on Sunday, January 17, after the 10:00 a.m. service. The screening will be held in the Music Room.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 No Friday Night Program	2 10 am - 12 noon: SPROUT in Luther Hall/Gym
3 <b>Second Sunday of Christmas</b> 8 and 10 am: Services of Holy Communion <b>Prayers for Healing</b> <b>Sunday School</b> 11:30 am: Investment Management Task Force, Conference Room	4 6:30 pm: Finance Committee Meeting	5 7 pm: Church Council in Luther Hall	6 <b>Epiphany of Our Lord</b> <b>7 pm: Confirmation Class</b> 7 - 8:30 pm: Stephen Ministry Supervision in the Conference Room	7 No Crafty Painters meeting 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl Ministry <b>10 am: "Bible Conversation," in the Nursery</b> Choir Rehearsals - Please contact Jonathan for information	8 Friday Night Program 3:30 - 9:00 pm	9 10 am - 12 noon: SPROUT in Luther Hall/Gym
10 <b>Baptism of Our Lord</b> 8 and 10 am: Services of Holy Communion <b>Sunday School</b>	11	12 No Staff Meeting	13	14 No Crafty Painters meeting 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl Ministry <b>10 am: "Bible Conversation," in the Nursery</b> Choir Rehearsals - Please contact Jonathan for information	15 Friday Night Program 3:30 - 9:00 pm  <b>Deadline for "God With Us"</b>	16 10 am - 12 noon: SPROUT in Luther Hall/Gym
17 <b>Second Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8 and 10 am: Services of Holy Communion <b>Sunday School</b> After the 10 am service: "Kick off 2016" Church Family Luncheon in Luther Hall After the 10 am service: Blood Pressure Screening in the Music Room	18 <b>Church Office Closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>	19 9:30 am: Staff Meeting 7 pm: Executive Committee Meeting	20 <b>7 pm: Confirmation Class</b> 7 - 8:30 pm: Stephen Ministry Supervision in the Conference Room	21 No Crafty Painters meeting 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl Ministry <b>10 am: "Bible Conversation," in the Nursery</b> Choir Rehearsals - Please contact Jonathan for information	22 Friday Night Program 3:30 - 9:00 pm	23 10 am - 12 noon: SPROUT in Luther Hall/Gym
24 <b>Third Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8 and 10 am: Services of Holy Communion <b>Sunday School</b>	25	26 9:30 am: Staff Meeting 7 pm: Church Council Meeting	27	28 No Crafty Painters meeting 9:30 am: Prayer Shawl Ministry <b>10 am: "Bible Conversation," in the Nursery</b> Choir Rehearsals - Please contact Jonathan for information	29 Friday Night Program 3:30 - 9:00 pm	30 10 am - 12 noon: SPROUT in Luther Hall/Gym
31 <b>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</b> (No 8 am service) 10 am: Service of Holy Communion <b>Sunday School (Children stay in Worship)</b> After the 10 am service: The Annual Meeting of Emanuel Lutheran Church						

January

We extend a special thank you to the College Students, Modeen Scholars and Young Adults who led us in worship on December 27.

**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!**

Ernest Wignall - January 22

Elizabeth Anderson - January 29

Kenneth Weeks, Jr. - January 30

**Special Emanuel Anniversaries During January!**

Inge and Roy Levin, January 6,  
61st Anniversary

Eileen and John Wygmans,  
January 23, 51st Anniversary

**Baptized into God's family on November 22:**

**Emmitt Michael Young and Elliott Joseph Young**, twin sons of Michael and Cara Young, born on September 7, 2015. Godparents are Lara Obadowski and Matthew Young. The Water Carrier today was Caroline Mujic. Proud grandparents are Dr. Mark and Dr. Karen Magnuson Obadowski. Congratulations and God's blessings to the newly baptized and their family!

**A Note Thanks from "Loaves and Fishes Ministries" of Hartford**  
*I want to thank you for the recent grant of \$1,985 from Emanuel Lutheran Church to support the cost of new kitchen equipment for our soup kitchen program.*



**The Annual Meeting of  
Emanuel Lutheran Church  
will be held on Sunday,  
January 31, 2016 following  
the 10:00 a.m. service.**

**There will be one service only  
at 10:00 a.m., so that all  
members may worship  
together and attend the  
Annual Meeting.**

**Confirmation Youth gatherings  
for middle school students and  
parents are held twice a month  
on Wednesday evenings. Please  
see calendar on page 11. For  
more information contact Natalie  
Bloomquist.**

**Faith Budget**

The faith budget is that portion of our operating budget that both enables Emanuel to meet its ministry commitments and provides opportunity for each us to share over and above our regular pledges. For 2015, the budget approved at the annual meeting includes a faith budget line item of \$37,000.

The Church Council and I want you to be aware of this, trusting that some of you will begin to make donations as you're able. For some, I know, there is little or no discretionary money available in your personal budget. For many others of us, that is not the case. Please consider this need and opportunity prayerfully and share as generously.

*Pastor Corgan*

**A Note of Thanks from Camp Calumet**

*To all of you at Emanuel:  
Thank you for this gift of \$3,000  
from the Sandberg Mission Fund.  
What a wonderful way to honor  
Pastor Sandberg's life of mission -  
Wonderful!*

## **Prayer Friends Needed!**

by Natalie Bloomquist

Each student in Emanuel's Confirmation ministry has a secret Prayer Friend who remains with him or her throughout the three years of confirmation instruction. Through prayer, the Prayer Friend has an impact on the life of the student through intercession to God. Prayer Friends pray regularly for their assigned confirmation student and send simple correspondence and special wishes on birthdays, baptismal anniversaries and holidays. Their identity remains a secret for three years until they are revealed just days before Affirmation of Baptism Sunday.

**Would you consider serving as a prayer friend?** Early adolescence is a difficult time, and the academic and social pressures society places on our middle school youth are tremendous. You can make a difference in their lives by keeping them intentionally in prayer and reminding them that Jesus is with them always, and that they are in your thoughts and, most importantly, your prayers.

**The benefits of this ministry flow both ways.** God created us to be in relationship with others, and this ministry not only brings joy to both the Prayer Friend and the

confirmation youth but also meaning and a depth of faith that comes from regular, simple, down-to-earth prayer.

**There is no standard profile for a Prayer Friend!** They are individuals, couples, families and friends teaming together to serve. All are important and meaningful partners in this ministry.

Please call, e-mail or speak with me at church for more information or to offer your service.

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**To see a list of Committees and Ministries of Emanuel and ways you can participate, please go to our website!**

1. [www.emmanuelhartford.org](http://www.emmanuelhartford.org)
2. Click on the black tab at the top of the page titled, "Serve."
3. Scroll down and on the right side of the page you'll see the logo for Sign Up Genius. Click on it!



## **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!

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## **A Note from Hands on Hartford - Thanksgiving 2015:**

*To our friends at Emanuel Lutheran Church,*

*We are so grateful for your ongoing support of our work. Special thanks for your food donations at the MANNA Community Pantry. You are such a caring congregation.*

*Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at Hands on Hartford!*

## **Another note from Hands on Hartford:**

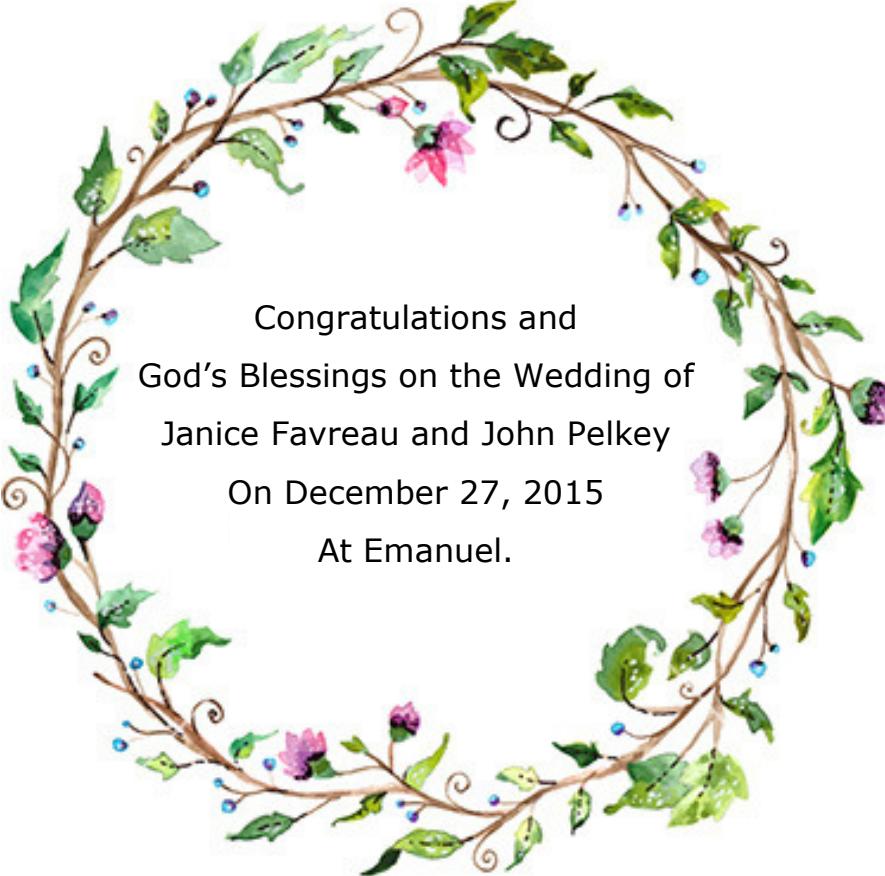
*Thank you and please pass our thanks along to your congregation for the very generous \$2,000 donation to Hands on Hartford's MANNA Community Pantry.*

## **Courtyard and Memorial Garden Renovation**

Plans are under development for a much needed renovation of the courtyard and Memorial Garden. Bernie Johnson from Property Committee has been working with a landscape designer and other contractors on a project that would include replacement of the existing sidewalks with pavers, removal of existing trees/shrubs, planting of new trees, shrubs and perennials in the courtyard and along

the front of the parish building, irrigation, fencing and granite memorial stones with the names of those interred in the Memorial Garden. **As part of the project, engraved memorial pavers will be sold for \$100 each during a campaign that will run through the end of January to give members and friends the opportunity to purchase an engraved paver in memory of loved ones or honoring family, events, or committees.** Order forms are being sent to the congregation, or they may

be obtained in the Church Office. The total project cost is approximately \$65,000, funded by the Justina and Evert Olson bequest, the Rev. Eugene Mitchell Memorial Garden fund, income from the sale of engraved pavers, and other donations. Council unanimously approved the full project at its November 17 meeting. Work is expected to begin in the spring of 2016 with completion by Memorial Day.



# Messiah

## Come enjoy an Epiphany Season Messiah!

Come **Sunday, February 7 at 3:00 p.m.** to sing or enjoy the Christmas portion of Handel's "Messiah" at **Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 79 New Park Ave in Hartford.** Our own Sarah Asmar will be singing the soprano solos, and Jonathan Reuning Scherer, our Director of Music, will be participating as well. All monetary donations will benefit The Immaculate Conception Shelter. Donations of winter clothing for men, women, and children would also be greatly appreciated. All are invited to enjoy the concert and those who love to sing are invited to join the chorus - please bring a score if you would like to sing. There is no rehearsal. It's a wonderful time to enjoy making and enjoying music together as a community and benefits a great cause.

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## "Christ in our Home"

Be sure to look in the back of the Nave, 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.

Congratulations and  
God's Blessings on the Wedding of  
Janice Favreau and John Pelkey  
On December 27, 2015  
At Emanuel.

## 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](mailto:gemitch@comcast.net)

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

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

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## 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](mailto:office@emanuelhartford.org). Thank you.

## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banner

As you are aware, the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banner continues to be posted on one of the towers and there have been questions raised as to when it will be taken down. At this time, the banner won't be taken down as there is an expense involved in contracting for a bucket loader to remove it. However, a decision will be made by the Council once the work on the towers begins as there is a need for a bucket loader at that time. We will keep you informed.

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## A Note of Thanks from Foodshare.

*Thank you for the December 15, 2015 donation from Emanuel in the amount of \$375. Emanuel's support has taken Foodshare from a one-person operation to a force that is a safety net for tens of thousands of people, and helped Foodshare become a national leader among food banks.*

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## The Altar Flower Form is on page 19 of this newsletter

## **Giving made simple... with Simply Giving**

Many people already take advantage of today's technology to manage their finances and pay bills effortlessly and on time. There are similar ways to contribute to church on an ongoing basis and/or pay your pledge. The Simply Giving program endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union is a convenient, safe way for individuals to make automatic payments to Emanuel through electronic funds transfer (EFT) directly from checking or savings accounts. Using Thrivent's Simply Giving program is a real win-win:

- no more remembering to write checks and grab your envelopes as you leave the house for worship on Sunday - or worry about keeping up with your pledge while on vacation,
- it eliminates the need for paper envelopes; it's a greener, more cost effective solution to ongoing giving - it can reduce the \$1,600 Emanuel spends per year on contribution envelopes for members,
- it provides Emanuel's operating budget with a predictable, steady flow on the receipt of your financial commitment - which improves cash flow through the year.

Simply Giving is, quite honestly, simple to use and set up. A form is available in the church office (we can send it to you via USPS mail or email). Check out the details at Simply Giving at [www.simplygivingbythriventcu.com/](http://www.simplygivingbythriventcu.com/) - this will bring you to the VANCO Services website which administers the Simply Giving program.

You can choose to give weekly or monthly. You can use Simply Giving whether or not you have formally pledged. Simply Giving automatically deducts the amount

you pre-authorize from your bank account and deposits it in Emanuel's operating account. Emanuel receives weekly confirmations of these deposits, insuring that your gift is then posted to your Emanuel account. You predetermine when these automatic deductions are to terminate or change. And if you think you'll miss the tradition of placing something in the offering plate each Sunday, Simply Giving can provide cards that indicate you're a Simply Giving participant.

It's a good program that can enhance your stewardship experience. Simplify your giving - join the growing number of people participating in Simply Giving at Emanuel.

Any questions can be directed to Jane Wunder at 860-525-0894 or [jane.wunder@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:jane.wunder@emanuelhartford.org).

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### **Celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation in Germany!**

This very special trip focuses on Martin Luther. Pastor Corgan endorses and supports this journey.

#### **Tour Overview:** 11 days including arrival and departure days

- Starting in Berlin, visit the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church and take pictures of Brandenburg Gate and the Holocaust Memorial.
- In Wittenberg, see Luther House, and visit St. Mary's Church and Melanchthon House. Continue to Leipzig to visit the Thomaskirche, where J.S. Bach worked.
- Visit Luther's Birthplace Museum, Luther's Death House Museum, St. Andrew's Church, and St. Peter & Paul Church in Eisleben, and the Augustinian Monastery and Merchant's Bridge in Erfurt.
- Journey to Wartburg Castle,

where Luther translated the New Testament, Luther House, and St. George's Church in Eisenach.

- Visit Coburg Fortress one of the largest surviving medieval fortresses in Germany.
- Tour Worms, where the Imperial Council passed judgment on Luther in 1521. Visit Trinity Church where Luther presented his case, and the famed Reformation Monument.
- In Mainz, visit the Gutenberg Museum, and enjoy a romantic Rhine River cruise through the prettiest part of the Rhine Valley. Next is Rothenburg, a medieval walled town famous for its Christmas ornaments, to see St. Jacob's Church and its renowned Blood Altar.
- Follow in Luther's footsteps and visit St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Nuremberg and then onto Augsburg, where Luther and his followers proclaimed their beliefs.
- In Munich visit Marienplatz with its Old and New Town Halls. In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner at your hotel.
- Recapture your knowledge of the history of the Lutheran Church, enjoy the fellowship of others, and renew your faith.

Please call me to answer questions you have about this exciting opportunity. Lisa Martin 860.929.0708

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**Please remember to bring in donations of food (canned, non perishable) for the MANNA Food Pantry - we have a collection box in Luther Hall. Thanks!**

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



*Christmas Eve at Emanuel!*



## 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.

## 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.

## New Flower Chart

In order to encourage people to sign up for altar flower donations, please note the "Flower Chart" on the bulletin board near the kitchen in Luther Hall. You may use this chart to pick a Sunday, or Sundays, when you would like to donate altar flowers. Checks (indicating the date for flowers on the memo line) may be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate with the form from the blue sheet. We hope to have flower donations for every Sunday of the year! Thanks for your help.

## Please visit our website at: [www.emmanuelhartford.org](http://www.emmanuelhartford.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/>

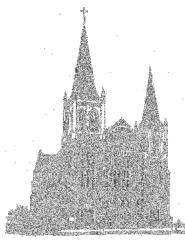
Here's the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) link to our website:  
<http://emanuelhartford.org/aboutus/faqs/>

The Calendar is on page 9 of our newsletter, "God With Us."

Please contact **Becki Murphy** at [becki.murphy@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:becki.murphy@emanuelhartford.org) if you have any questions.

## The Emanuel Archives

### A Time to Pause and Reflect, 1914 - 1917



by John Starkes

The church basement was completed and established for Sunday worship in August 1913. Unchanged in its dimensions, 64' x 120', its cost was \$26,669, increasing the value of Emanuel's property to \$148,727, with an indebtedness of \$18,000 as of January, 1914.

As we move ahead in this story of Emanuel, it is important to honor the author of our source, God With Us, 1889-1989, by Norma Westlund Sandberg, in her work of translating the Swedish writings to English as those able to do so are now, in our time, few in number.

So, what was the life of Emanuel like in its twenty-fifth year, 1914? The men spent many weeks preparing the grounds about the parsonage and basement for planting shrubs, trees, and gardens. The Ladies' Aid Society, with 174 members prepared a banquet for 600 guests - \$.25 per seat; the Emanuel Daughters held their first Lucia Festival; and Dr. Youngert received the largest Christmas offering as Pastor, \$137.30, as his bonus agreement.

The young adults group, called Fortuna, raised \$2,250 in their week-long bazaar, Midsummer Festival. Later that year, the Ladies Aid Society paid their entire pledge of \$3,000 to the Building Fund and the sponsored "Coal Party" raised enough money for the entire winter's supply of heating fuel.

Other notes of interest for 1914 included the Sunday school picnic at Goodwin Park, urging the city trolley

for transportation from City Hall; a polio epidemic that delayed school opening; and a five week long summer school with 82 attending. Of special interest to me was the authorization of Pastor for the trustees to begin a search for property in the Parkville area to build a community chapel.

Pastor Youngert also addressed the language question of worship, as English was becoming the language of choice for the younger generation, because of school. It was also required by some who were of confirmation age. The possibility that church attendance by the young people could decline, as they might seek to worship elsewhere in English, led by Pastor Youngert to make the last Sunday of each month a worship service in English. He saw it as a change that would come, little by little, in the years ahead to keep the congregation together.

As the year 1916 came to an end, the hope of new construction for the church had to be set aside, as the world was at war in Europe and was affecting the industry and economy of the country. Emanuel was a healthy church with 1008 members and a Sunday school filled with 305 children. At the Annual Meeting of January 1917, it was decided to delay further construction plans and to concentrate on paying off debt.

## Serving in January

### Acolyte and Crucifer

Jan. 3	Erika Cangro and Samuel Johnson
Jan. 10	Elizabeth Arcand and Alexa Wells
Jan. 17	Charles Sinche Seth Barron
Jan. 24	Noah Kiehne Griffin Fairchild
Jan. 31	Meredith Swanson and Addison Fastiggi

### Altar Flowers

Jan. 3	Open
Jan. 10	Open
Jan. 17	Open
Jan. 24	Open
Jan. 31	Open

### Assisting Ministers

Jan. 3	Lynne Strecker
Jan. 10	Alan Meeds
Jan. 17	Mal Doyle
Jan. 24	Janice Favreau
Jan. 31	Barbara Berg

### Childcare in the Nursery

Jan. 3	Open
Jan. 10	Open
Jan. 17	Open
Jan. 24	Open
Jan. 31	Open

### Children's Library

Jan. 3	Deborah Corgan
Jan. 10	Diane Troutman and Monica Swanson
Jan. 17	Diane Troutman
Jan. 24	Diane Troutman
Jan. 31	Closed

### Coffee Hour

Jan. 3	<i>Worship and Music,</i> Doug Larson
Jan. 10	David and Nancy Altschuler and family; Bart and Jean Barresi and family
Jan. 17	Hannah Bloomquist, Caroline Dwyer, Kristen Wieber, Ellen Anderson

Jan. 24	<b>New Members,</b> Rae Ann Gremel	Jan. 31	Kelly Caldwell
Jan. 31	<b>Annual Meeting,</b> Paul and Lynne Strecker, and Lisa and Richard Martin		
<b>Communion Preparers</b>			
Jan. 3 Open			
Jan. 10	Open	Jan. 17	Open
Jan. 24	Open	Jan. 31	Open
<b>Communion Servers</b>			
Jan. 3	Open	Jan. 10	Open
Jan. 17	Open	Jan. 24	Open
Jan. 31	Open		
<b>Greeters</b>			
Jan. 3	Patti and Mebret Farquhar	Jan. 10	Bobbee Canfield and Abby Stadtlander
Jan. 17	Brian and Monica Swanson, Meredith, Geneva, Brian	Jan. 24	Jenny St. John and Dylan, Carol Johnson
Jan. 31	Mrs. Monique Jennings and family		
<b>Lectors - 8:00 a.m.</b>			
Jan. 3	Becky Thomas	Jan. 10	Rosie Vojtek
Jan. 17	Bob Vojtek	Jan. 24	Randy Olson
Jan. 31	No Service		
<b>Lectors - 10:00 a.m.</b>			
Jan. 3	Glenna Brodnicki	Jan. 10	Zach Bellis
Jan. 17	Monica Swanson	Jan. 24	Janice Favreau
Jan. 31	Rae Ann Gremel		
<b>Sound and Recording</b>			
Jan. 3	Lindsey Anderson	Jan. 10	Kyle Bellis
Jan. 17	Eric Carlson	Jan. 24	Jeff Potter

## **Using Our Facilities**

Emanuel is so fortunate to have such wonderful facilities - a gymnasium, classrooms, a comfortable lounge, Luther Hall fellowship space with a well-equipped kitchen, conference space and two beautiful worship spaces in the church and chapel. Outside groups often use our facilities, and last year the Council

approved "facility use guidelines," an application form, insurance requirements, and use fees to guide the use of our facilities by outside groups. We are also glad to make Emanuel's spaces available to members, and now have guidelines for member use, adopted last month by Council, which clarify for everyone how spaces/equipment may be used. There is no "use" fee for

members, but a small charge to cover our sexton's extra time spent opening/closing the church, furniture setup/take down, and cleanup/trash removal. And, of course, personal events/activities can only be scheduled as other church sponsored activities permit. If you'd like more information, please call Jane Wunder.



**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.  
355 Camp Street Bristol, CT 06010 - Phone: (860)582-0629

**The Women of Emanuel Lutheran Church  
are cordially invited to attend the  
Second and Third Planning Meetings  
for the WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Spring Gathering  
to be held on April 30, 2016 at Gloria Dei Lutheran  
Church, Bristol.**

The next meeting will be held at Gloria Dei Church on:  
**January 16 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
Snow date: January 23 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Refreshments will be served!

The third and last planning meeting will be held at  
Gloria Dei Church on:  
February 27, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Snow date: March 5, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Refreshments will be served!

If you are unable to attend the planning meetings but are willing to volunteer, please contact Tracy Carlson at 860 620-4166 or [tcarlson01@snet.net](mailto:tcarlson01@snet.net).

### **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

Address Service Requested

**Periodical**

Postage Paid at Hartford, CT



*Growing in Faith Together.*

**Emanuel Lutheran Church**

Opposite the State Capitol Grounds  
*The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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 begins after the  
Children's Message at the  
10:00 a.m. worship service.