

CARING FRIENDS



A NEW MINISTRY

A new ministry to homebound members and their families is now being created at Emanuel as an opportunity for ***caring friends*** to connect with those who can no longer attend the many worship and fellowship opportunities offered for us here at Emanuel.

The mission of ***Caring Friends*** is to connect with our homebound members and help them maintain relationships with their faith community here at Emanuel, through personal contacts from members by phone, mail, visits, communion, and in prayer. It's our hope that through this ministry our homebound members will know that they are remembered and appreciated by their church family, and that we value their history at Emanuel and their friendship.

Our hope is that, as a group (in other words, no one person will do all of these things unless they choose to), Emanuel's ***Caring Friends*** will:

- Maintain contact by sending cards, church news, and devotional resources.
- Make and receive telephone calls and/or emails.
- Visit, talk, and pray with these friends.

- Bring communion as they visit (this is optional; some will feel comfortable serving in this role, others may not. Either way is fine.)
- Build relationships, recognize and embrace the God-given gifts of our homebound members, and learn from each another.

This ministry is an essential part of our life as a faith community. . .it's part of our ministry as the people of God, together.

Do you have an hour a week to participate? Does it feel like a match for your God-given gifts? Remember - no one is asked to do everything but, if we each do something, this new ministry will thrive as we work together in faith and love.

This ministry of the people of Emanuel, extends the reach and complements the visitation ministry of the Pastors of Emanuel. While Pastor Marschhausen serves as Emanuel's Visitation Pastor right now, he will be leaving us in the late spring/early summer – in preparation for a new pastor to be called. As our Interim Pastor, Pastor Maria will not be able to take on the visitation ministry for our congregation – and a new pastor won't be able to give this ministry the time it requires and the

attention it deserves either. *(Did you know that Emanuel currently has more than 30 homebound parishioners?)*

But **more importantly**, this is such an important ministry for the people of Emanuel. Just think how much it means to you when a friend comes to visit. . .or when someone gives you a call when they haven't seen you in a while. This is the gift you can so easily give to those Emanuel parishioners who have blessed us with their gifts and presence in years past, but are now unable to attend worship and fellowship events. They miss you. It's good for them to know that they are also missed.

Perhaps you are already visiting – if so, thank you for being a blessing! We look forward to sharing your gifts as part of this ministry! But – if you haven't visited before now – and you think that God might be calling you to serve in this way, please contact Pastor Hammons and join in this faithful and fulfilling ministry!

Together we can be
Emanuel Caring Friends!

Note: A meeting of those who are already visiting, and those who are interested in this ministry, will be held in the near future. Training will be provided as needed.

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Sunday Services of Holy Communion: 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

(Please note: On January 1, 8 and 29 we will have one service at 10:00 a.m.)

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

www.emanuelhartford.org



Connect with us on Facebook!
Please visit <http://www.emanuelhartford.org/>
and click on Facebook,
OR visit <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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If you are calling after hours or on a weekend and have a pastoral emergency, please call: 860-300-0019, and a Pastor will return your call as soon as possible.

From the Pastor. . .



Be Resolved! It's a New Year!

I've never been very good at making New Year's "resolutions" . . . perhaps because I've never been very good at keeping them. As a result, many of my resolutions would be the same over and over again each year. Get more exercise. . . Eat right. . . Get to bed earlier. . . and so on. Since I'm not good at "resolution follow-through" – what's the point in making them in the first place?

However, I'm thinking that might be a mistake. After all, the whole idea behind making New Year's *resolutions* is that this is a *new year*. It's as if the beginning of a new year may be just the thing we need to make a *new beginning*. A chance to start over. . . to make or renew our commitment to some-thing or someone important, to start something new or to redirect our time, our energy, our priorities. A chance to make a fresh start. . . to begin again.

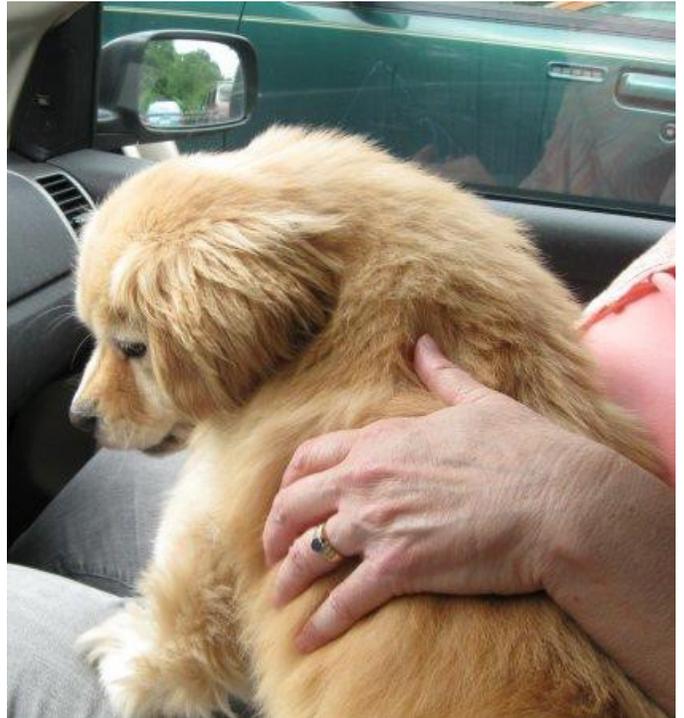
Resolution, of course, comes from the word *resolve*. The definition of *resolve* includes the following: to deal with successfully, to reach a firm decision. Interestingly, the first few synonyms listed for *resolve* are *determine*, *deliberate*, *courage*. The very idea of making a resolution implies that we are *determined* to carry out what we resolve to do, that we will approach it *deliberately*, and that we may well need *courage* to follow it through.

I think that's obvious in some situations, but not so in others. *Resolving* to deal with something like a health issue, not only takes our *deliberate determination*, but a lot of courage too. But perhaps we don't realize how *resolved* we need to be, and how much courage we need to have, to make other kinds of changes in our lives, especially those that call us to change our way of thinking or behavior in some significant way

I kind of felt that way about getting a puppy. After more than 20 years of making excuses for why we couldn't have one (when it was mostly my fear of dogs stemming from an attack when I was a child), once I resolved to get past my fear and bring a dog into our home, I had a whole new set of fears. What would I do if I was afraid? What if I didn't like *it*? What if *it* didn't like *me*? What if I never got to sleep late again because the dog would wake me up early every morning for the rest of my life? What if we wanted to go away and didn't want to take *it* with us?

What if I wasn't good at taking care of a dog and hurt it in some way? The list went on and on.

Still *deliberately determined*. . . I put on a brave face and we went to the shelter. We brought a dog home with us that same day. And thanks to the patience and sweet disposition of my spouse and this little doggie – I was not only no longer afraid, but I fell in love with my little boy dog – my Sonny. What a gift!



Bringing Home Sonny – August 2009

But where did my new-found *courage* come from after all those years? I can only attribute it to one thing. Once I *resolved* to do this, I *prayed*. I asked God to give me courage, to know what to do, to be patient and loving, to remember that this little animal was part of creation and precious in God's sight. And with that resolute prayer - it was a *New Day*! I discovered that not only was I not afraid of Sonny, but I was far less nervous around dogs in general. It was truly amazing! And now – thanks to that prayerful resolve and to my sweet sonny dog – I was able to give my heart to our latest rescue puppy – Riley – who joined our home just over a year ago.

(Continued on next page)

Be Resolved! It's a New Year!
(Continued)

It seems resolutions don't work just on New Year's. . .any day can be a New Day! The difference in whether we follow through or not depends on how resolved we intend to be (I don't think I ever took my New Year's resolutions seriously) – and, much more importantly, to whom we look to give us the courage and strength we need. God's amazing grace gives us the "resolve" we need. After all, God gives us not only each new day and new year, but through Jesus, we ourselves have been made a new creation!

. . .If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Cor 5)



Christmas 2015 - with Riley

So maybe I'll try this New Year's resolution thing again this year. . ."resolved" to take them seriously knowing that the courage and strength that I need to follow through is not my own - but comes from God's Amazing Grace.

Friends in Christ. . .what are you resolved to do or to change this year – as an individual child of God. . .as the people of God at Emanuel?

Whatever your resolutions may be, I wish you the "resolve" that comes from placing your trust in our God.

And I wish all of you a very happy and healthy New Year. . .filled with the blessings of many "new days" in God's amazing grace!

Peace and Joy!
Pastor Maria

Christmas Thank You!

Thank you to. . .

Our Sunday School Children, teachers, and aides – especially Mrs. Elizabeth Kieschnick and Mr. Jim Flanders - for a delightful and heart-warming **Nativity Program!** You all reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas - the gift of love in a child! You are such a gift of love to us!

To **Jonathan and all of our musicians and choirs** for beautiful and inspirational **Christmas music!** Through all of you, the Spirit of Christmas warmed our hearts and inspired our souls! What a special Christmas blessing you gave us all!



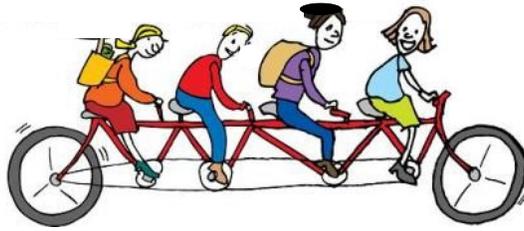
To our **Liturgical Assistants and Altar Guild** who shared their gifts to make our Advent and Christmas **Worship Services** so special!

Greeters and Ushers. . .
Crucifers and Acolytes. . .
Lectors and Altar Guild. . .
Communion Assistants. . .
Assisting Ministers and
Sound System Assistants. . .

You prepare and lead us so faithfully!

To **all of our Emanuel** friends who helped with the "greening" of our **Sanctuary and decorating the Church** buildings and grounds! You gave us the gift of beauty during this special time of year!

With heartfelt thanks to you all. . .
Pastor Maria



Transition Together

Dear Friends in Christ. . .

Our transition journey continues. . .here's the latest!

- At our town meeting on Sunday, November 13. we continued our conversation about the Church transition process as there are some who are still struggling with the idea of the new process. Some who were present wondered if there was a reason for the extended timeline and if this was something special that only Emanuel was going through for the call process. I explained that this is a process most ELCA congregations of any size have participated in over the last 15 years or so. The goal is to allow time for the Emanuel congregation to discern its vision - your identity and purpose today and for the future - to assist with the pastoral call process – to help match Emanuel with a pastor who has complimentary gifts and similar passions for mission.
- We also began our discussion of your hopes and dreams, fears and concerns. about the future – a discussion we'll continue in small groups during January, February, and early March. Look for more information regarding these small group meetings in the "Transition Time Cottage Meetings" article on page 10 of this newsletter. I hope you are able to join us for at least one of these discussions to share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas.
- On Sunday December 11, Kim Bergstrand of the New England Synod Staff led us for our Transition "History Event." We were able to look at Emanuel's history from the 1930's through the present, and think about how what was happening in the world, in the Hartford community, and in religion in general, shaped Emanuel and contributed to your becoming the congregation you are today. It was a fun and interesting day. Thanks to all who helped organize the day – especially Rae Ann Gremel, as well as to those of you who participated!

I know the transition process is new for Emanuel. I also understand that this is a time of anxiety about your future as a congregation and who your next pastor will be. While some of you are excited about the process, the conversation, and the possibilities. . .others of you are less excited, and may even be frustrated. That's certainly understandable.

My hope is that you will stick with us through the process – continuing to attend the meetings and participate in the discussions. And then, when we come to the end, I hope you might feel that it was a worthwhile time of congregational self-reflection that led to your having a better idea of who you are called to be as a faith community today and in the future. I also hope that it will help you call a pastor who shares your vision and complements your gifts and call to mission.

I also hope you know that I will do my best to lead you through this process in a faithful and caring way – and you can trust that we will all be guided by the Holy Spirit along the way.

Please join us for the small group conversations. Not only is it easier to relay information in person – but it gives us a chance to have a discussion, for you to have a voice in the process, and for me to answer your questions and hear your ideas and concerns.

Trusting that God will lead us to a place of joy and promise!

With prayers for the journey!
Pastor Hammons

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

Sundays in January

January 1, 2017

New Year's Day Service of Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

January 8, 2017

Epiphany Lessons and Carols, Service of Worship at 10:00 a.m.

January 15, 2017

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

January 22, 2017

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

January 29, 2017

Service of Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m. - After the service, we will have our Annual Meeting.



The Annual Meeting of Emanuel Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2017 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.

Bible Readings

For the Month of January

January 1, - Name of Jesus

Luke 2:15-21

January 8 - Epiphany Sunday

Lessons and Carols

January 15 - Prophet's

Hometown

Luke 4:14-30

January 22 - Fishing for People

Luke 5:1-11

January 29 - Lord of Sabbath

Luke 6:1-16

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!

David C. Carlson - January 11

Ernest Wignall - January 22

William Swanback - January 28

Elizabeth Anderson - January 29

Kenneth Weeks, Jr. - January 30

Special Emanuel Anniversaries During January!

Inge and Roy Levin, January 6, 62nd Anniversary

Eileen and John Wygmans, January 23, 52nd Anniversary

To the Members of Emanuel Lutheran Church:

Thank you for the beautiful flowers delivered by Ellen Anderson on my 90th birthday.

Thanks be to God. I am enjoying fairly good health and hope to attend services whenever the weather permits.

*Merry Christmas to all,
Inger Swanson*



Dear Friends of Emanuel,

Thank you for your support in the passing of Mother Edith. She loved our church and all in our church family.

Thank you again for your thoughts, prayers, cards and flowers.

*Bruce and Linda Cutler
and family*



Dear Friends at Emanuel Lutheran,

With the warmth and abundance of Thanksgiving still in the air, and the holidays just around the corner, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your partnership in strengthening the community of Hartford. Special thanks for your support and donations throughout the year - we couldn't do it without you! Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

*Janet and the
Hands on Hartford Team*



Who is Deacon Natalie?

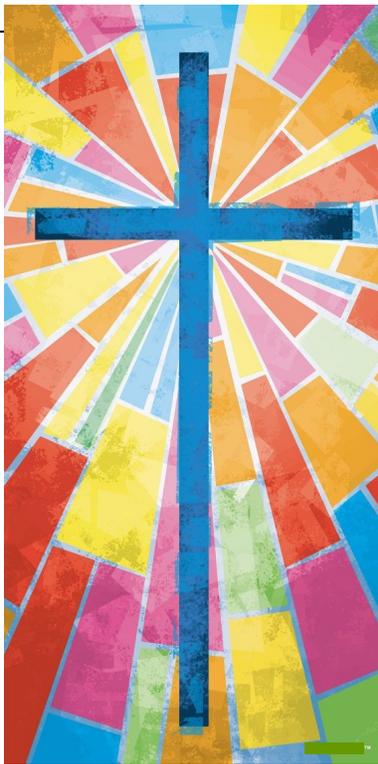
The 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted a change to the rosters of ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. On January 1, 2017, the current rosters of associates in ministry, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses will be merged into one roster of “Ministers of Word and Service.” Those on the roster of “Ministers of Word and Sacrament” will continue to be called pastors, and those on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service will now be called deacons.

I have been following the work of the Word and Service Task Force over these last six years and greeted the Churchwide Assembly’s vote to establish one roster of Ministers of Word and Service with enthusiasm and a sense of affirmation of my vocational calling.

From the report of the Word and Service Task Force:

Why deacon?

“The name deacon is proposed for those who are called to this ministry of Word and Service because it is biblically rooted, historically informed, ecumenically related and mission driven. The name or title deacon is gender neutral. The title and office of deacon is used by our full communion partners in the Episcopal and United Methodist churches as well as in many global Lutheran World Federation churches.”



Deacons will be called to advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to bold and innovative service on the frontiers of the church’s outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God’s world. Deacons will be called to provide leadership that inspires, calls out, equips, encourages and advocates for the church’s call to witness and service in the world. A ministry of diakonia invites participation, builds bridges and accompanies others in God’s mission in many different ways.”

As you can see, the word *diakonia* comes from the New Testament Greek word for service. As I “transform” from associate in ministry to deacon, I will continue to empower, equip and encourage the people of God for their own daily baptismal vocation of service to the neighbor and care of creation. But as the Church continues to adapt to be able to respond to the needs of God’s world, I am excited to live into my role of deacon and discern where God is calling me to be bold and innovative – always leading and serving under the name of Jesus Christ, the Word of God.

God’s grace and peace,
Deacon Natalie Bloomquist

Members and Friends in our Prayers:

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

† God’s comfort and consolation to the family of Carol Olson Gilnite, who died on Wednesday, December 14, 2016.

In Memoriam

Emanuel Sister-in-Christ, Nancy Smith, died on December 28, 2016. A funeral service was held at Brooklawn Funeral Home on December 30, 2016.



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

Sunday School News

BY NATALIE BLOOMQUIST

Nativity Sunday Storytelling

What a joy to hear the story of Jesus' birth told by Emanuel's children and youth during worship on December 18! I am very grateful to Elizabeth Kieschnick whose love for Jesus shone brightly as she prepared a script, gathered Sunday School children and Confirmation youth, moved and fit costumes, led rehearsals, and, most importantly, kept the story of the birth of our Lord and Savior central to our Advent and Christmas observances.

Participation in telling this important faith story was a milestone memory for the children. The experience of putting themselves inside the story and sharing the Good News with their congregation will stay in their hearts and memory muscle for a lifetime. Their smiles and pure voices awakened the congregation to the beauty and depth of an event that the world often overshadows during the busy holiday season.

Elizabeth and I thank the parents for their support of this meaningful moment in their children's faith lives and thank the children and youth who shared their love for Jesus on Nativity Sunday.

Production Assistant: Ellie Protulis

Guitarist: Kristen Goci

Mary: Meredith Swanson

Joseph: Charles Sinche

Angel Gabriel: Brynn Murphy

Narrators: Mebret Farquhar and Megan Murphy

Caesar Augustus: Sam Johnson

Head Shepherds: Andre Montoya and Braden Hazard

Lambs: Prekindergarteners and Kindergarteners

Angels: 1st and 2nd Graders

Shepherds: 3rd and 4th Graders

Innkeepers: 5th graders

Stablehand: Brittany Caldwell

What a big difference a piglet can make!

After counting all the coins and bills in the ELCA World Hunger piggy banks, Sunday School was able to purchase three piglets for families in need. When each piglet grows up, she will give birth to as many as 16 piglets each year. Pigs help fertilize fields, provide food to eat and can be sold at market for much-needed income.



Reverse Advent Calendars

During Advent we waited and got ready for Jesus. As we waited, instead of an Advent calendar where we receive something each day, families gave something each day to those in need of food or basic supplies. After reading each day's Advent devotion, families chose an item for the MANNA food pantry to add to the Reverse Advent Calendar box. The newsletter deadline came before the boxes were collected on Christmas Eve. We'll announce the total number of boxes and how many pounds of food was collected in next month's newsletter.

Offering Envelopes

We did not order new boxes of Sunday School offering envelopes for 2017. The cost has gone up each year and we realize that each year families end up with a number of paper envelopes left over that they did not use. In order to be better stewards of both financial and environmental resources, we are asking families to use envelopes leftover from previous years. The dates do not matter. You may also have other envelopes in your home you wish to recycle. If you've gone through your envelopes, please let me know. I have extra boxes left over from last year.

SPARK Lessons in October:

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

January 1: No Sunday School class.

January 8: Children will remain in worship to participate in the **Service of Epiphany Lessons and Carols.**

January 15: Jesus Goes to Nazareth.

When Jesus returned to the synagogue in his hometown, he told the people that he was sent to tell them that God loved them and poor people and sick people and people in prison. Some people grumbled about that. They thought that Jesus included too many people in God's love. But God doesn't want anyone to be left out. Because God's love is for everyone, everyone is important to God. Luke 4:14-30

January 22: Fish for People. Jesus asked some special friends, called *disciples*, to share his work. He asked the disciples to go fishing, but not for fish – for people! Jesus calls people just like us to be his disciples, to follow him and share God's love with everyone. Luke 5:1-11; 8:1-3

January 29: The Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are Jesus' teachings about our blessings from God. The word blessed means "happy." God gives us many blessings. We are some of God's blessings because God's love works through us. We can be a blessing to someone by being kind and helpful. Matthew 5:1-12

Prayer for the Month:

Thank you, God, for always loving us, no matter what. Thanks for sending Jesus to tell us this over and over. In his name we pray . . . AMEN. ☒

Third Grade Families

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



BY NATALIE BLOOMQUIST

Parenting is not always easy. Raising children of faith in a secularized, materialistic, and status-seeking society is never easy.

As people of God, we at Emanuel promise to support the newly baptized and pray for them in their new life in Christ. For infants and children, this usually means active support for their parents. The primary way the Church has provided support in recent decades is to provide Sunday School and Confirmation instruction. But what we've found out is that we've usurped parents' role (as described by Martin Luther) as the first educators in their children's faith with the result that most parents feel unequipped to have faith conversations with their children – especially as their faith relates to every day living.

So we changed things up a bit at Emanuel. One way we support parents is by including them in our Confirmation Gatherings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. During each gathering, the youth are blessed to be in conversation with their parents, as well as with other adults and with their peers, about their faith and how it intersects with the world in which they live.

I was a little nervous before one of our recent gatherings because I was going to introduce a study published by Harvard's Graduate School of Education (makingcaringcommon.org) that shows a gap exists between what parents say are their top priorities for their children and what children perceive those priorities to be. Before presenting the results of the study I warned parents that this

was a national study and that I was not in any way accusing them of sending mixed signals to their children!

The study asked the question, "Are we raising caring kids?" Of the 10,000 youth (ages 12 to 18) surveyed, 80% said achievement or happiness is their top priority, while 20% said caring for others is their top priority. Clearly, we hit on a hot topic in the lives of early adolescents because one of the youth practically jumped out of her seat and said, "Can you blame us? Every day all our parents talk to us about is our grades and our extra-curricular activities! That's what's important! It's stressful!" It just so happens that 96% of parents surveyed said that moral character is "very important if not essential" but, as the study revealed, that's not what the youth were hearing. In fact, 81% of the youth thought happiness or achievement is their parents' top priority.

We had started off that gathering with a video of Leo Tolstoy's "The Old Shoemaker" as an introduction to that week's World Hunger Sunday text of Jesus' parable of the Sheep and the Goats in Matthew 25:31-46. Tolstoy's story helped youth and parents begin to think about what it means to care for other people and treat them as though they were Jesus himself. In both "The Old Shoemaker" and Jesus' parable we noticed that followers of Jesus are called to be empathetic, to understand and share the feelings of another, valuing and responding with compassion to other people and perspectives.

Wendy Claire Berrie, a Christian educator whose blog I follow, summed up the importance of the Harvard study for Christians: "Giving our children the opportunity to know, listen to, and actively help

others is essential, not only to our Christian identity and formation but to changing the society in which we live."

I agree. And I want to support parents in that role. I know how busy families are today and how serving others can feel like just more thing to fit into an already overscheduled life – especially when someone else has chosen and organized a required service project. So, during our first gathering in January, families are coming with laptops, tablets, smartphones, and whatever information they need to research where they feel God is calling them to be of service. Throughout Advent we talked about Jesus ushering in God's kingdom and how, even while still here in this earthly life, we are workers in that kingdom working toward God's vision of a just and compassionate world where all live in peace and abundant joy. Pray for us on this journey and, better yet, join us! God's people working together can make a difference.

Please see the next page for **"Confirmation Youth and Parent, Dates Remaining for 2016 - 2017."**

**The Altar Flower
Form is on page 23 of
this newsletter.**

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

January 4	Youth and Parent Gathering
January 18	Youth and Parent Gathering
February 1	Youth and Parent Gathering
February 15	Youth and Parent Gathering
March 1	Attend Ash Wednesday Worship
March 8	*Lent
March 15	*Lent
March 22	*Lent
March 29	*Lent
April 5	*Lent
April 13	Attend Maundy Thursday Worship
April 14	Attend Good Friday Worship
April 21-23	Confirmation Retreat at Camp Calumet in New Hampshire
April 26	Youth and Parent Gathering
May 10	Youth and Parent Gathering
May 24	8th Grade Confirmands and Parents only
June 7	Potluck for Confirmands, Families, and Prayer Friends
June 11	Affirmation of Baptism



A New Office Mailbox

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



**Transition Time
Cottage Meetings. . .**

You’re invited!

The goal of these small group meetings is to provide informal opportunities for Emanuel’s parishioners to share their hopes and dreams, fears and concerns, about the future of the Emanuel congregation, with each other and with Pastor Hammons. This is an especially important conversation for us to have during our transition journey, and we encourage you to come share your thoughts.

Meetings will be held at different times and places throughout January, February and March. Some will be held in Luther Hall, while others will be held in the homes of parishioners. Specifics will be included in the Sunday News section of our weekly bulletin beginning January 15, and in the February and March *God with Us* newsletters.

Please consider participating in one of these important gatherings. If you have a group that would like to meet together to have this conversation, let Pastor Maria know and she will do her best to schedule your group.

If you are unable to join us at one of these meetings, but are interested in participating in this conversation, please contact the Pastor.

Pastor Maria Hammons can be reached at pastormhammons@gmail.com or at the Church Office 860-525-0894.

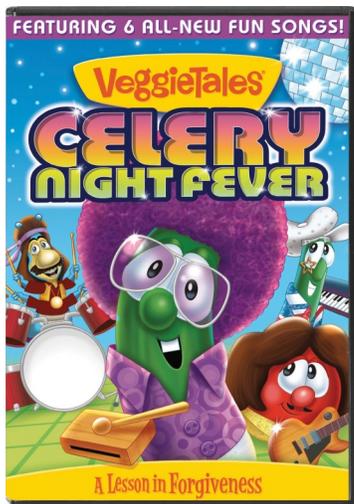
A sign of God is that you will be led where you did not intend to go.



Children's Library News

Happy New Year! With the start of a new year, we have many new Veggie Tale DVDs that we will be highlighting for the next 2 months.

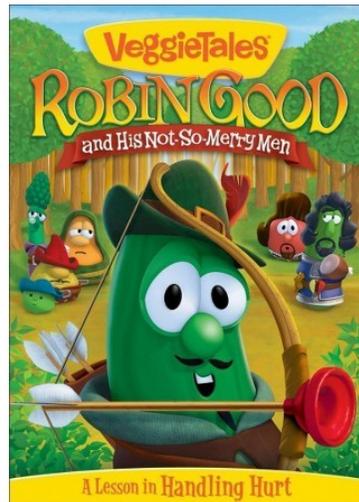
"Celery Night Fever" is a lesson in forgiveness. Laura Carrot and Jr. Asparagus plan a benefit concert to prevent Celery Park from being destroyed. When a past grudge keeps band members from working together, the concert seems doomed. Can the band members reunite to save the park?



This Veggie Tale is not Beauty and the Beast, but "Beauty and the Beet!" Mirabelle and her family band hope to give their next concert at Vegetable Square Garden. However, bad luck strikes when they get stuck at a rundown resort due to a fierce snowstorm. The innkeeper, Mr. Beet, makes them clean and sing for their supper. Mirabelle hopes

that her kindness will change his unkind attitude. Will it? This is a lesson in unconditional love.

"Robin Good and His Not So Merry Men" teaches about handling hurt. Robin Good and his band of men hope to fundraise from the rich and give the money raised to the poor. However, when a greedy Prince starts stealing hams from the townspeople, Robin's friends decide to rob from the rich instead of fundraise. Robin Good is not happy with his friends and things get even worse when his friends are captured by the Prince. Can Robin Good overcome his hurt and rescue his friends?



These DVDs are now available in the music room "library." A gentle reminder that if you still have Christmas books out, we would appreciate their return to the basket found in the music room. Thank you.

Tyler C. Gabriel graduated from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ in August 2016 with a Masters degree in Electrical Engineering. He is working as a civilian for the Navy's Air Division in southern New Jersey.

Church by the Pond

January 7, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at Bushnell Park rain, snow or shine.

Emanuel will be serving lunches to approximately 80-100 homeless people on this day. I am looking for 6 volunteers to help prepare and pass out lunches that day. I will also be collecting new socks to distribute that day and will have a Tupperware tub marked "Church by the Pond" in Luther Hall. If you are interested, please contact me at swaney64@hotmail.com.

Thank you,
Yvonne Gardner

New Babies!

Congratulations and God's Blessings on the birth of Joshua Isaac Gray on December 4 to Jason and Jessica Gray. Joshua's grandparents are Nancy and Andrew Gray from Emanuel.

Congratulations and God's blessings on the birth of Van William Germann born in Colorado on December 26, 2016 to Megan and Nick Germann. Van's grandparents are Terri and Walt Dwyer from Emanuel.

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

Please be kind to our elder parishioners and to those who have trouble walking a distance, and remember to park in the state parking lot on Sundays. We've had some folks who cannot walk that distance who have been unable to find a space in our very limited parking lot on Sunday mornings, and so therefore could not attend worship. Thank you so much for your consideration! Blessings!



WONDERING “WEATHER” THERE’S CHURCH???



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

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

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

And finally,

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

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

God Bless and Be Safe!



Nativity Sunday Storytelling

What a joy to hear the story of Jesus’ birth told by Emanuel’s children and youth during worship on December 18!



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

—Theologian, Joan Chittister



Dear Emanuel Prayer Shawl Ministry Team -

Roy and I want to thank you all so much for our beautiful prayer shawls. I use mine every single day. Special thanks to Abby Stadlander for thinking of us while we were both in rehab, and for giving the prayer shawls to Pastor Maria to bring to us when she visited.

We got home to Luther Ridge right before Christmas. While we are still housebound, we are recovering and doing much better. It is good to be home.

Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and prayers!

Inge Levin

SPROUT Christmas Ministry a Success

Many thanks to all our Emanuel members and friends who sponsored a child and purchased a stocking or gift for them for Christmas, or to the many people who made a monetary donation to purchase a gift for this ministry. Due to the snow we had to cancel our Saturday program on the day we were giving the gifts out, but all the children and families were able to come on Sunday, December 18th to receive our gifts and also a \$50.00 gift card to Stop & Shop, courtesy of the Sandberg Mission Fund. Enough money was collected that we were also able to purchase an age appropriate book for each child with the hope they make good use of this gift and read over their vacation. The children and parents were truly grateful for the generosity shown to them by Emanuel. For many of these children these gifts are the only ones that they receive for Christmas, and we are grateful to all of you for helping to make their holiday special. Our SPROUT program has grown over the years and is now operating at full capacity, which makes for a very spirited and energetic Saturday morning. We appreciate all the support the Emanuel members have shown for this program.

-Emily Tenison and Terri Dwyer

**THANK YOU
FOR SAYING "NO"
TO WORLD HUNGER**



Emanuel friends –

Thanks to your faithful generosity on our World Hunger Sunday in November, we were able to send an offering of \$1,193 to the ELCA World Hunger organization. . .

AND. . . 422 lbs. of food was collected and delivered to the local MANNA Food Pantry at Hands on Hartford!

Well done, good and faithful servants!

Blessings!
Pastor Maria

ELC YOUTH GROUP Gift Basket FUNDRAISER

FOR 2018 YOUTH GATHERING
IN HOUSTON, TX

A S P E C I A L T H A N K S !

A special thank you to everyone who bought tickets and/or donated a gift basket! To those who helped the fundraiser by wrapping baskets, selling tickets, organizing or helping in any other way, we thank you and are very grateful for your work. The fundraiser was a success, we raised \$1,189.00 in ticket sales and donations!

Here are the winners of the baskets from the drawing on December 18:

Family Game Night basket – Jeff Potter
Movie Night basket – Nate Protulis
Cocktail Hour basket – Lee and Lynn Sherman
Lutheran Vineyard basket – Dr. Timothy Silvis
Bake Shop basket – Mebret Farquhar
Bath Night basket – Bobbee Canfield
Coffee Shop basket – Bobbee Canfield
New England Patriots basket – Valerie and Craig McDonald
American Girl Doll Kit basket – Libby Tenison (Sprout)
Snacks basket – Jonathan Reuning-Scherer
Spring Time basket – Brook Nowak
Creative Mind basket – Eileen Mitchell
Junior Scientist basket – Jane Wunder
Kindle My Basket – Keren Paquette
Star Wars basket – Jeff Potter
LEGO Creator basket – Chet and Glenna Brodnicki
Gingerbread House – Susan Franzis

Our Youth Leaders will be meeting again soon to decide what our next fundraiser will be.

A Tentative Schedule of 2017 Meeting Dates for the Youth Group

1/29; 2/11 and 2/12; 2/28; 3/3-3/5 OR 3/10-3/12; 3/26; 4/9; 4/23; 5/7; 5/21; Connecticut Trails Day Saturday 6/3; and Tuesday 6/13 – End of School Year Family Potluck Dinner in Luther Hall

Looking forward to 2017!

JANUARY

Freezin' for a Reason!

FEBRUARY

Building Busy Bags

MARCH

Camp Calumet

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

St. Lucia Festival

103 Years

Thank you to the cast of the 2016 St. Lucia Festival Performances
on December 2, 2016!



The photo above was taken by Patty Swanson. pattyswanson.com

**A Thank You to the
volunteers of this
year's St. Lucia
Reception!**

Thanks to **Carol Johnson** for helping to decorate, **Eric Carlson** for helping to buy the food and pick up the buns, and **Lynn and Lee Sherman** for ordering the Anna's cookies.

Thank you:

Coffee Ladies

Ellen Anderson

Rae Ann Gremel

Jeannette Urban

Elaine Krause

Carol Johnson

Karin Gottier

Karen Toscano

Alison Manaresi

Punch Men

Nelson Gottier

Eric Carlson

Richard Martin

Thanks to **Rachid Chelali** for setting up and making great coffee - as usual!

-Lisa Martin

"Thursday Bible Conversation" meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Lynn and Lee Sherman. The first meeting of 2017 will be on January 12.

Sunday School is held in the Music Room.

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

Keeping Everyone Safe During Construction

Construction has started in earnest for the accessibility project! The construction site has been confined with fencing, and entry through the rear door of the parish building is no longer possible. **"DANGER Construction Site No Trespassing"** signs are posted at the Luther Hall end of the tunnel and in the parish building. Parking spaces closest to the Luther Hall rear entrance have been reserved for members, visitors and our service providers, while the spaces beyond the median strip will be reserved for contractors Monday thru Friday. We ask your special attention and understanding on the following:

- **Please do not enter restricted areas.**
- **Parking spaces in our rear lot are limited.** Particularly on Sundays, these spaces should be reserved for those among us who cannot make the trip from the state parking lot.
- If you're meeting with a staff member during the week, **let us know when you're coming and we'll come open the door** (give us a call from your cell phone once you're in the parking lot or as you leave home).
- With all the traffic and space limitations, we encourage groups to **meet at members' homes** - you'll be more comfortable and safer.



- Similarly, there will be a **moratorium on any requests for facility usage** during the construction period over the next 6 months.

There are lots of inconveniences to be sure, but how exciting that the project is underway - we'll be celebrating the new addition and elevator by mid-2017! If you have any questions about these project logistics, please ask Jane Wunder, Mike Nowak or Mark Hopper.

A message from David Kiersznowski, Jr., Emanuel's Coordinator of MANNA Community Meals:

December 13, 2016

Thanks to everyone who helped this year with Manna Community meals! I greatly appreciate everything you all do to support this ministry.

Looking back on the year, we baked **40 casseroles**, buttered **409 rolls**, tossed **44 pounds of salad**, baked **480 cupcakes**, and mixed about **20 gallons** of lemonade so we could fill **409 bellies!!** And we often had leftovers that would be available for lunch the following day.

You are such an energetic, positive, FUN group of people who really make this an easy event every time we have the pleasure of hosting. Over the last year, I have seen you serve these meals with 20 people, and you have done it with only 4 people. Nobody wants to try with just 4 again. I don't know why; it was rather interesting!

Looking back to the first time I joined the group in this role last December, I was so anxious something would go wrong. When Vicar Dominic asked me if I was ok I told him "No! If I goof this up, people could actually starve!" He just laughed and told me don't worry. And then everything went well.

Since that day I have not worried about this meal. I have faith the food will be prepared and that it will get served.

My hope for 2017 is that you will all join me again and maybe start to get a few new people involved. This isn't terribly difficult work that we do, but it is important and impactful. And you know it's kind of fun. . .

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas full of peace, joy, and happiness.

God Jul!
Dave



Abundance

Stewardship 2017

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

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

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



2016 Church Council

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

Brighten someone's day by taking our beautiful altar flowers to them!

Each Sunday after the late service, we try to make arrangements for the delivery of the altar flowers to our hospitalized and/or shut-in members. Claudia Bellis, Brook Nowak, Marjorie Johnson, Ellen Anderson, and Rae Ann Gremel do a great job with our flower ministry. If you'd be willing to help on a Sunday with a delivery, please look for one of them near the Luther Hall kitchen. Thanks. You'll surely brighten someone's day!

Committee, Ministry or Task Force Leaders of Emanuel:

Year-end reports are due in the church office by

Monday, January 9, 2017.

Any questions, please call the office.

Thank you.

We've Gone Green!

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

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

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

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

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

*God's peace!
Pastor Maria*

Calling All E-mail Addresses

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

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

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

Dear Emanuel Prayer Shawl Ministry Team -

Roy and I want to thank you all so much for our beautiful prayer shawls. I use mine every single day. Special thanks to Abby Stadlander for thinking of us while we were both in rehab, and for giving the prayer shawls to Pastor Maria to bring to us when she visited.

We got home to Luther Ridge right before Christmas. While we are still housebound, we are recovering and doing much better. It is good to be home.

Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and prayers!

Inge Levin



January's Hardhat Zone:



Tower: The east tower entrance was reopened in early December after restoration work was halted for the winter. Most of the repointing/hand sculpting of masonry details has been completed. The new masonry, as yet without the final finish coatings, has been carefully protected from winter weather with waterproof sheeting. Work will take 2-3 months to finish in the spring due to unexpected problems identified at the corner segments which were determined to be huge single castings. Unlike smaller, individual pieces used everywhere else, these large segments cannot be hand chipped back to solid stone, but rather must be sawed out. Forms will be made and new sections cast off site during the winter. There are 15 sections of stone that must be replaced, each about 1' X 1' X 3', weighing 350 pounds each. This work requires different scaffolding to enable safe removal and then hoisting and setting of these heavier stones. It will be installed in the spring when work resumes. Unfortunately, this unexpected scope of work will have significant cost implications; it is, however, quantifiable and our contractors are submitting "not to

exceed" pricing for the remaining work. Additional funding needs will be presented at the annual meeting. The good news is that we can enjoy the use of the east tower entrance during the winter.

Accessibility: Work has been progressing at a steady pace this past month. Demolition of the interior spaces (walls, old restrooms, ceiling, flooring, the vault, stairs) is nearing completion. The sound and vibration of jackhammers and drills have been fairly constant for the



past several weeks since the parish building is built of cinderblock walls and concrete floors – making for a noisy and very dusty demolition process! (Check out the photos in Luther Hall for a glimpse of the world behind the construction doors!) Hazardous material abatement has been completed. Plumbers are trenching in the basement for new lines while electricians are tracing circuits in preparation for the increased service to support the elevator. Thus far, the construction has been confined to existing space within the parish building, but in early January, the site contractor began digging for the new foundation. Depending on weather and timing, a groundbreaking blessing will be planned.

Signs are posted to show our internal "detours" during

construction - we thank everyone for continuing to be flexible and patient navigating through our space for the next 6 months!

Did You Know?



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

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

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

"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.

Council Highlights

Council Meeting Highlights

November 22, 2016

Council President Chet Brodnicki called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Pastor Hammons shared devotions on generosity, reminding us that God asks us to *give*, not to *accumulate*. The minutes of the October 25th, 2016 council meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Tim Elwell highlighted year to date income, expenses and the budget process. Income continues to be down (only 80% of plan through October) and bottom line expenses are up, primarily due to the elevator repairs. It was noted that the audit is complete! Council discussed the timeline for preparation of the 2017 budget, suggesting adjustments to provide more time to digest/discuss the Finance budget recommendations.

Pledges: To date, 103 pledges have been received versus 197 pledges in total last year. However, the amount of money pledged so far is \$242,138 and is running well ahead of last year.

Operations: Jane Wunder distributed photos and reported on progress on the tower repairs and on accessibility. (Please see "Hardhat Zone" for detail updates.) Due to the recent passing of our regular Universal security guard, new arrangements are being made and expectations for the security guard were discussed.

Harper Scholarships: The David Harper Music Scholarship Fund makes funds available for students taking music lessons. Thirteen scholarships were recently approved at \$125 each. Going forward, a process will be developed to include Worship & Music along with the Music Director in the scholarship award process.

Approval of the Transition Team.

This team is comprised of 5 people. A motion was made to appoint Mindy Olson, Lynn Sherman, Eric Protulis, Dick Allison and Sarah Parmelee as members of the Transition Team. Motion was seconded and carried.

Parking Lot: Due to the construction, the rear parking lot has even fewer spaces. Pastor Hammons has sent out an email reminding "able-bodied" parishioners to park in the State lot; the reminder was also posted on the Emanuel Facebook page.

Volunteer Opportunities on Sundays

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the coordinators below.

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

Lectors: Lynn Sherman, 860-523-1702

Ushers: Jim Ashwell 860-667-0264

Assisting Ministers: Janice Favreau 860-644-8315

Sound System: Mal Doyle 860-561-1582

Thank you for your service to these important ministries.

The Samaritan Fund

Just to remind you, the loose offering received on the first Sunday of the month goes to the Samaritan Fund. The Samaritan Fund is used to assist people in need.



On Reformation Sunday, Jonathan Fairchild (seated in the upper right of the photo) worked with our Sunday School children to make cut-out Luther Seal snowflakes, which he designed, to help them discover the meaning of the Luther Rose Seal.



Emanuel's 40th Anniversary October 1929



by John Starkes

As we address this important event of our church, we may start by looking at the world about us, the features of life in Hartford, noting that in those times life really centered at the home. Business for the most part was done in the community or as far as one could travel by train and return at the end of the day. Our 8-page Emanuel Church News had articles that helped its readers to keep up with society and the community about them.

Luthersk Kyrkotidning was mostly all in Swedish, but the weekly message from Sunday's sermon, and news events of the greater Lutheran synod were also offered in English. Because many of our members then lived near the church, many would stop by daily in the reading room. There they could find their friends to discuss articles in the paper and to review church sports teams with the games of the week.

The church news was also full of ads by local merchants, and financial guidance offered by the banks. Of course several families of Emanuel's membership had their own businesses and supported the church news with their own ads to draw business from within its Swedish community. There were interior painters and decorators, builders of homes, masons, experts in plumbing and heating, florists and grocers, dealers in dairy, poultry and eggs, bakery products, automobiles, jewelers, etc. etc.

Because so many lived near the church and supported each other, Emanuel's Swedish reading room was a regular source every day of the week, a home led by a pastor who enriched their reading with a little history, stories, and even poetry besides his own scriptural commentary. He would offer all sorts of useful information he'd find in his own reading: advice on dental care, neckties, stuff single young men needed such as a good place to get clothes washed and tended to, barbers, eye glasses, even lutefisk.

The 35th anniversary of Emanuel in October 1924 focused on the completion of the church edifice and financial goals for all that was needed to complete the church. The emphasis for the 40th anniversary was to present the church's history and development, to present all of its organizations, and to focus more on its members themselves. A wonderful anniversary book was published to present the past and affirm the future, full of wonderful photographs of the church construction, its buildings, the interior of the sanctuary and the chancel. Wonderful portrait photos of its Pastors, officers and committees are presented, ladies' organizations, sports teams, choirs, fellowships, and class group photos of the Pastors, and all the Sunday school youngsters of the three locations.

The book, **Forty Years - 1889-1929 - of Lutheran Progress in Hartford,** was the beautiful treasure for every member to have, their memento of the event. Oddly, all the special anniversary week events and services, speaker texts and music were those of the 1924 anniversary. All the photos were mostly current of the groups and Sunday schools, worth the price of 75 cents.

It would be the book, **Forty Years - 1889-1929 - of Lutheran Progress in Hartford,** as the focus for the future. How fortunate that the preparation was done ahead of the anniversary event – October 1929, for something else was to occur that very month of celebration, the Crash of the nation's financial institutions that quickly led to the Great Depression. Had the book been delayed, it would never have happened. All the ads to support the book and anniversary event expenses would have been lost. So it alone is the treasure of the event. Beyond that a loyalty drive for funds and participation in the programs and organizations were the goals. Keeping close to one another and the church would be essential for the troubled years to follow.

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

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

The Flower Chart

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



J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 7

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day Service of Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School	2	3 5:30 pm: Executive Committee Meeting 7 pm: Property Committee	4 11:00 am: Staff Meeting 7 pm: Confirmation Youth and Parent Gathering	5 6:30 pm: Bell Choir 7 pm: Finance Committee Meeting	6	7 10 am: SPROUT
8 Epiphany Lessons and Carols, Service of Worship at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School children remain in worship to participate in the service	9	10 7 pm: Church Council Meeting - Budget	11 No Staff Meeting	12 10 am: "Bible Conversation" meets at the home of Lee and Lynn Sherman 6:30 pm: Bell Choir	13	14 10 am: SPROUT
15 Services of Holy Communion at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. At 10 am service: Holy Baptism of Derek Sulewski Sunday School Deadline for "God With Us"	16 Church Office Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17	18 11:00 am: Staff Meeting 7 pm: Confirmation Youth and Parent Gathering	19 10 am: "Bible Conversation" meets at the home of Lee and Lynn Sherman 6:30 pm: Bell Choir	20	21 10 am: SPROUT
22 Services of Holy Communion at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Town Hall Meeting	23	24 7 pm: Church Council Meeting	25	26 10 am: "Bible Conversation" meets at the home of Lee and Lynn Sherman 6:30 pm: Bell Choir	27	28 10 am: SPROUT
29 Service of Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School After the service: Congregational Annual Meeting and Lunch	30	31				

Serving in January

Acolyte and Crucifer

Jan. 1

Acolyte: no volunteer
Crucifer: no volunteer

Jan. 8

Acolyte: Andre Montoya
Crucifer: Harrison Arcand

Jan. 15

Acolyte: Delanie Halstead
Crucifer: Alejandro Morales

Jan. 22

Acolyte: Ellie Protulis
Crucifer: Hannah Karim

Jan. 29

Acolyte: Mebret Farquhar
Crucifer: Gavin Emmons

Altar Flowers

Jan. 1 Open

Jan. 8 Open

Jan. 15 Open

Jan. 22 Open

Jan. 29 Open

Assisting Ministers

Jan. 1 Celia Allison

Jan. 8 not needed

Jan. 15 Janice Favreau

Jan. 22 Mal Doyle

Jan. 29 Brook Nowak

Children's Library

Jan. 1 closed

Jan. 8 Diane Troutman

Jan. 15 Diane Troutman

Jan. 22 volunteer needed

Jan. 29 volunteer needed

Coffee Hour

Jan. 1 Friends of Emanuel

Jan. 8 Open

Jan. 15 Jen Jarvis and family,
Jenny St. John, Kim Halstead,
Jeff Potter

Jan. 22 Open

Jan. 29 Annual Meeting and Lunch

Communion Preparers

Jan. 1 Eileen Mitchell

Jan. 8 No Communion

Jan. 15 Bobbee Canfield

Jan. 22 Ellen Anderson

Jan. 29 Marjorie Johnson

Greeters

Jan. 1 Pam Cayward and
Don Ahlberg

Jan. 8 Martha Kannah

Jan. 15 Ann Louise Swanson

Jan. 22 Carol and Brad Dennler

Jan. 29 Lois House

Lectors - 8:00 a.m.

Jan. 1 no 8:00 a.m. service

Jan. 8 no 8:00 a.m. service

Jan. 15 Randy Olson

Jan. 22 Kathy Haller

Jan. 29 no 8:00 a.m. service

Lectors - 10:00 a.m.

Jan. 1 Rae Ann Gremel

Jan. 8 **Epiphany Lessons & Carols**

Braden Hazard

Linnea Bloomquist

Elizabeth Kieschnick

Elaine Krause

Emily Tenison

Zach Bellis

Doug Larson

Deacon Natalie Bloomquist

Kurt Hazard

Jan. 15 Janice Favreau

Jan. 22 Walt Dwyer

Jan. 29 David Parmelee

Sound and Recording

Jan. 1 Mal Doyle

Jan. 8 Lindsey Anderson

Jan. 15 Jeff Potter

Jan. 22 Rhiannon Kiersznowski

Jan. 29 Noah Fairchild

Sunday School Aide Schedule

Jan. 1 No Sunday School

Jan. 8 Sunday School children
remain in worship to
participate in Service of
Epiphany Lessons and
Carols.

Jan. 15

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

Jan. 22

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

Jan. 29:

PreK-Kindergarten:
Lindsay Anderson
Grades 1 and 2: Matthew Graulich
Grades 3 and 4: Meredith Swanson

Ushers

8:00 a.m. Katherine Haller

10:00 a.m. John Ogilvie,
David Stetson

Emanuel Youth Group -

An email was sent by Lance Hansen with important registration information for the Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. If you have any questions, please contact Lance (lance.hansen.ct@gmail.com) or call/text 860-882-9632.



Altar Flowers—\$45.00

Please use the form below for a flower donation and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Thank you.

In Honor/Memory of: _____

Today's Date: _____

Given by: _____

Date for Flowers: _____

Phone Number: _____

Questions? Call the Church Office 860-525-0894

God With Us

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Growing in Faith Together.

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Opposite the State Capitol Grounds
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Maria J. Hammons, Interim Pastor

Church Office: 860-525-0894

Fax: 860-246-3720

Sunday Worship Schedule

Sunday Services of Holy Communion:

8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

(Please note: On January 1, 8, and 29 we will have
one service at 10:00 a.m.)

Sunday School

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