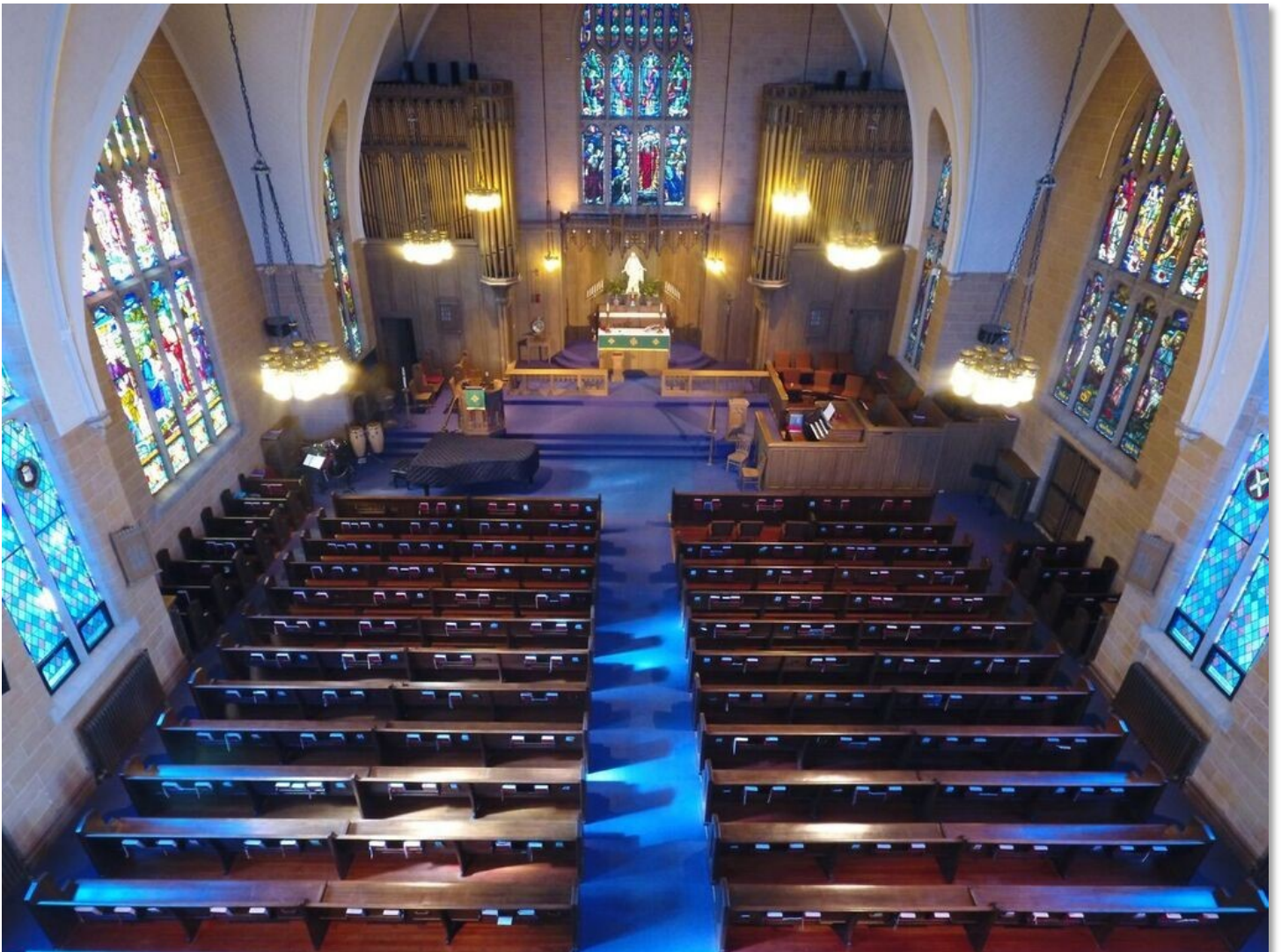


God With Us

The Newsletter of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Hartford

EMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

IN THE CITY FOR GOOD



Sermon Stories During August

- August 5..... *God Hearing the Cries of the Abandoned and Rejected*
August 12..... *God Providing Us Guidance and Strength*
August 19..... *Rahab and Trust*
August 26..... *Esther and Being Bold*

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From the Pastor



“Be Still and Know that I am God” is my breath prayer—the prayer I use to center me when life is crazy and to bring me back to my core. I use it when I want to spout off and think it might be better to hold my tongue and when I am fretting too much, babysitting the world as though God didn’t exist, to calm my Spirit.

I had a chance to be still in July and live out this verse in a truly profound way, as I spent some time being still—and being reminded that silence is not just golden, it is also deep.

After having felt like a whirling dervish since I arrived at Emanuel last October, always feeling like I was just behind the curve, I took advantage of some time to get away. I was working to put all of the pieces that I have been gathering since I arrived through meetings and conversations together to help with creating a direction for Emanuel’s mission. I also spent time planning our worship focus for the coming year during six days of planning, prayer and silent reflection.

I went to an island in Lake of the Woods where I went to summer camp as a child. The camp, Manitoba Pioneer Camp, rents out a small cabin, set apart from the camp, and designated as a retreat location for clergy, parents of campers, alumni, and supporters of the camp, and, since I fit all four designations, it is a perfect place of me.

I spent 22 hours a day in silence, and joined the camp staff for meals each day, so that I could have a little human contact, but the richness of the experience was the time of deliberate reflection and prayer.

I was very intentional about my retreat time. I had a set agenda with a focus on missional planning every day, as I immersed myself in all of the materials from my Mission and Ministry meetings, as well as things like Emanuel’s CAT, the worship survey, the work done on the accessibility project in 2012, and other materials, including the history of Emanuel. I also dove into recommended books about being the church in the 21st century.

The only sounds I had were the sounds of nature that surrounded me. No media of any kind was available. And in the midst of the silence, I discovered something amazing. I discovered how silence forces you to dig even deeper.

I couldn’t distract myself with the mindless chatter that can so often surround us. I found out it is a lot easier to hear God’s voice and in the process, I found an amazing sense of personal peace as well as deliberate direction, as I tried to put all the pieces together regarding what I have been learning in the past year. I was able to discern deliberately what I will be laying out to the council and the membership in the coming months--a reflection of what I’ve been hearing, from members of Emanuel, as well as from God.

Elijah, in 1 King 18-19, goes through a time of turmoil after he calls God’s fire down to burn an offering and as a result kills all of the prophets of Baal, thus enraging Jezebel, who pledges to kill him. Elijah flees to a cave and God comes to speak to him. But in the midst of the chaos of his life, God is not in the wind, or the earthquake, or the fire that passes before him. He finally hears God in the silence, in the still small voice that happens when he waits and listens patiently.

(Continued on page 4)

From the Pastor (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

In the midst of the turmoil that results in our ever changing world, as well as the craziness of our multitasking lives where technology and media overwhelm us, we often lack peace and wonder where God is. And yet God is trying to speak to us. We just don't take the time to be silent and really listen.

I know few people are as fortunate as I was to take this time to retreat (and let me assure you, pastorally, it filled my cup, renewed my spirit, and was more useful than any conference I have attended).

But if we are deliberate, most of us can take some quiet time daily. Even if it is for a few minutes. And if that becomes a pattern, I think it is easier to hear

God's still small voice each day.

One of the mantras of my spiritual life is not to speak each day until I have spoken to God and not to eat until I have feasted on the Word. That practice has deepened my spirituality and helped me grow in my relationship with God.

I commend that practice to each of you as well, as a way to grow your faith. The depth of reflection that can only come from silence as you listen to God, can fill you with the peace that passes understanding that God promises to all of us, if we take the time to listen and receive it.

Peace, Pastor Paula

Since You Asked...

How do I invite a friend to worship?

Statistics show that eighty percent of all worship visitors come because a friend invited them. People are also more likely to get and stay connected with a church when they have that friendship connection. You share with a friend if you went to a good movie, or used a great product, so why is it so hard to invite them to worship? If it is a part of your life that is fulfilling and life enhancing, why not share it? But statistics also show that the average Lutheran invites someone to worship once every 27 years!

During our Mission and Ministry Meetings it was suggested we have a ***Bring a Friend to Worship Sunday*** so we are planning two, ***Sept. 9 and 16***—and will also have an activity fair to get people engaged in ministry opportunities at Emanuel. We are currently planning a little twist and making it

Bring a Friend to Church Sundaes! and incorporating ice cream sundaes after church into the plan. I would like to challenge each member to invite a friend to worship this September. Here are the steps to make that a less intimidating task.

- ♦ Pray about whom to invite. Pray for God to open your heart or mind up to see a friend or neighbor to whom you could extend an invitation. Do not try to recruit an active member of another Christian congregation. We are not about "sheep stealing." That is not of God. However, it is OK if someone does not attend or isn't active or involved. If you have school-aged kids, have your kids think and pray about friends who do not go to worship or Sunday School.

(Continued on page 7)

Members of the Church Council

Mark Hollertz, President.....	mark.hollertz@virtus.com
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May 2018 Council Meeting

The minutes of the April 24 Council Meeting were accepted.

Pastor’s Report

New Position - A job description was distributed and reviewed for a position focusing on community outreach, communication, volunteer encouragement and youth. The strategy is for Emanuel to be the primary employer, but it would be a shared position with other area churches funding about one quarter of the position’s salary, roughly equivalent to the “youth” portion of the position. This could be an opportunity to engage and unite with other churches. Pastor and Jeff Potter will continue to handle confirmation and Sunday School. Council endorsed this position and Emanuel will move forward with posting.

Mission and Ministry Update - Community outreach has been universally mentioned as a draw for the congregation. If we are going to grow the church, it will be through social outreach.

Emergency Food need for SPROUT - Chet Brodnicki and Pastor met with Hands on Hartford about the possibility of Emanuel being a satellite, emergency food bank. A family would work through Hands on Hartford, but then be referred to Emanuel if they were found to be in need. We would provide additional funding to Hands on Hartford and they would provide the food. Logistics and space needs are under consideration.

Treasurer’s Report

Bobbee Canfield reported that we are on target, the net effect of income overall being behind, offset by expenses being below budget (especially with Personnel 8% under due to the unfilled position). We continue to feel the financial stress of two empty Hungerford apartments.

The audit of 2016 Financials is complete! In June there will be a joint meeting with Finance Committee to go over the audit, to be presented by

(Continued on page 6)

May 2018 Council Meeting (continued)

(Continued from page 5)

Blum Shapiro.

Reconciling in Christ Status

Members have come forward to be on the R.I.C. Committee. Becoming a “Reconciling in Christ” congregation means publicly welcoming lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender believers. There will be a special meeting of the congregation on September 23 on this topic.

Scholarship Committee Update

There are two task forces; Funding and Process Review. The first group has reviewed the various scholarship funds and developed methodology for annual funds available for each scholarship pool.

The second task force will review the fund details (donor intentions, eligibility), and develop/revise process and structure to best use available funds while meeting donor intentions. The initial focus this year was to get all application processing online from Emanuel’s website.

Other Business

As anticipated, a motion was made that effective July 1 Chet Brodnicki would step down as Vice President to become a Member at Large on Executive Committee. Sarah Parmelee will become the Vice President. Motion was seconded and passed. Chet was thanked for his extended service during the transition and Sarah for her willingness to serve in this leadership capacity.

Financial Peace University

Emanuel, in conjunction with Trinity Episcopal Church, will be offering Financial Peace University beginning in September and running for 9 weeks. This program has been a HUGE success in my previous parishes and I am very excited to introduce it at Emanuel, through this partnership with Trinity.

Financial Peace University is a life-changing program that teaches you how to make the right decisions with your money. You’ll be empowered with the practical skills and confidence needed to achieve your financial goals and experience true financial peace.

It is a 9-session course, with each session lasting 90 minutes. Each session deals with a different topic that will change the way you think about personal finance. They teach about how to save money, live on a budget, communicate about money, eliminate debt, find bargains, and experience the

joy of giving. Over 5 million families have completed FPU with amazing success. On average, they pay off \$5,300 in debt and save \$2,700 in just 9 weeks. That’s an \$8,000 change in position in just 63 days!

Once the dates have been finalized the online registration will be open on [Emanuel Website](#) and on [Facebook](#). The class will be conducted at Trinity Episcopal and costs \$119, which includes all materials. This course is a great way to improve your marriage, if you are married, and a wonderful opportunity to strengthen your faith and enhance your life.



Since You Asked...(continued)

(Continued from page 4)

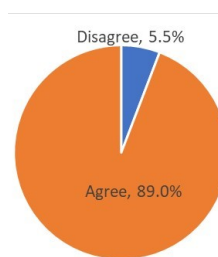
- ♦ Pray for God to open your heart up to see what might draw that person to worship. Maybe it would be a program for their kids (Sunday School and youth education are always big draws as well as a chance to serve together). Maybe it is a theme or a topic, or a service event, like our Food Share Project. Maybe it is inviting them to Bring a Friend Sunday, when we are deliberately focusing on connecting new faces.
- ♦ Pray for an opportunity to share what it is that you like about Emanuel. Whether it is the type of worship, the friends you have, the way people care for each other during times of need, the chance you have to be part of something bigger than yourself in your own community through something like SPROUT or the Friday Night Program. Pray for God to open up an avenue for conversation (“someone sang the best song last week at church” or “the pastor told an interesting story” or “it was so neat how we do this program to give kids bikes”, etc.) Sharing good things on Social Media is also a good opportunity. Say something good about Emanuel and take a look at who “likes” it.
- ♦ Pray for an opportunity to extend an invitation. Be prepared with information—times of worship, style, place, etc.. Cards that contain all of this information will be available in Luther Hall and the Office. Carry the information and give them the church card to spur a reminder. If they show interest, follow up with more information and details. If you have been praying and trusting the Spirit, you will know whether to follow up. Most of the time, you will be well received, especially if you have followed steps

1-3.

What is the current status of becoming a Reconciled in Christ Congregation and why was this a first priority?

The committee, which consists of Janice Favreau, Mike Johnson, Dave Kierznowski, Rick Liljedahl, and Melanie Sinche met with Pastor Kristian Koehler from Faith in East Hartford, who worked with Reconciling Works as an intern. He guided us through the process. The next step will be a town hall meeting for anyone interested with Knute Ogren on Sept. 23, when he will talk more about why becoming an RIC church is an important step for the congregation as we seek to be a vital church in the Hartford area and he will answer questions about it from the perspective of an LBTGQ member of the ELCA as well as someone who has his pulse on what draws people to a new congregation.

The reason becoming an RIC congregation rose to the forefront early in my ministry is two-fold. First, it was mentioned as something we should pursue at nearly all of the Mission and Ministry Meetings I held, and affirmed by most in attendance, so it was a clear priority of engaged members. Second, the Congregational Assessment Tool done during the transition, had as one of their questions / statements “***Emanuel should openly and warmly welcome LGBTQ individuals and families into the congregation.***” In response to it 1.5% strongly disagreed with this statement, 2% disagreed and 2% tended to disagree. However, 17% tended to agree, 36% agreed and 36%



(Continued on page 8)

Since You Asked...(continued)

(Continued from page 7)

strongly agreed.

Note: 4.5% of the responses were blank.

The vast majority of the congregation is in favor with moving forward with a process that publicly declares a welcome so it already has broad support. In the next few months, we will be holding more gatherings to explain why God's embrace for all people is grounded in the Word and discuss what this means for Emanuel, as we respond to God's call to make Emanuel where all are welcome.

People want and need to be part of a community with God at the center. We all have a God sized

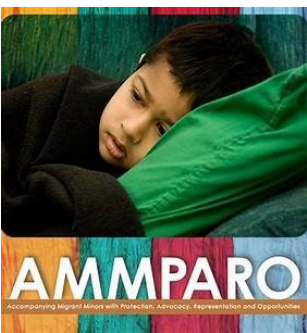
hole in us that can only be filled by an active relationship with God, and that relationship is enhanced when we are part of a community. So often, in the midst of crisis, people comment on how glad they are to be a part of this congregation, where they feel the prayerful and tangible support. It makes a huge difference. They are glad for the chance to be involved in programs that make a difference in our world. We want to share what is good in our life—so why not share the best of all Good News! So pray, pray and pray some more, and God will open all the doors, as we seek to be *In The City for Good*.

Women's Retreat Planning Team

Emanuel will be having a Women's Retreat at Camp Calumet March 22-24. Please put it on your calendars and let Pastor Paula know if you are interested in being part of the planning team

for the retreat. This will be a new ministry and an opportunity to build community at Emanuel, so we are looking for people who want to help be a part of this vision.

AMMPARO, ADVOCACY AND ACCOMPANIMENT Workshop



A Workshop Event of the New England Synod's World Hunger Team and The Refugee & Immigration Task Force will be held on Sunday, October 14, 2018 from 1:30 pm to 6:30 pm at

Emanuel Lutheran Church.

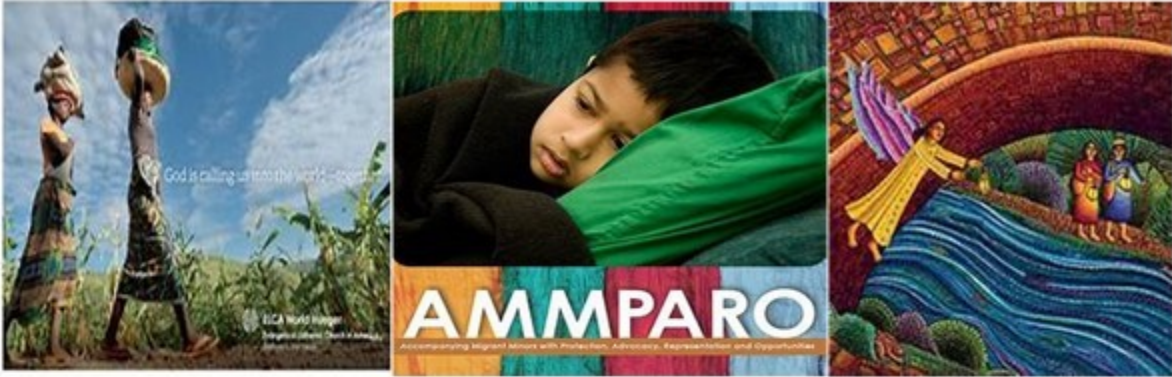
The ELCA's strategy to Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities because of com-

plex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

Mary Campbell, Director of AMMPARO, will be presenting information about AMMPARO and leading us in an experiential activity, migrating from Central America.

The cost is \$10 and the registration deadline is September 29. A light supper will be served.

The program flyer and registration form are available on the next page, in Luther Hall and on [Emanuel's Website](#).



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

AMMPARO, ADVOCACY AND ACCOMPANIMENT

A Workshop Event of the New England Synod's
World Hunger Team & the Refugee & Immigration Task Force

Attend either:

Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 9 am to 3 pm

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Providence, Rhode Island

or

Sunday, October 14, 2018 from 1:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Hartford, Connecticut

Mary Campbell, Director of AMMPARO, will be presenting information about AMMPARO and leading us in an experiential activity, migrating from Central America

Workshops on: Welcoming Congregations, Guardian Angels, Visitations in Detention Centers, World Hunger, Honduras, Advocacy & ELCA World Hunger Domestic Grants, Foster Care for Unaccompanied Migrant Minors

Please register by September 29th. Send this form and a check for \$10, made out to the New England Synod. Memo line: October 13, RI, OR October 14, CT. Mail to: Doreen Rinas, 12 Shirley St., Pepperell, MA 01463. A light lunch will be served on Saturday, and a light supper, on Sunday.

Name: _____; Email: _____

Phone: _____; Congregation & City & State: _____

New keys throughout Emanuel's spaces!

Last month our locksmith rekeyed the entire facility as part of the 2018 Capital Plan. The locks on all interior doors and exterior doors have now been changed, new keys have been issued and **all old keys are useless**. Rachid is typically

available to open doors as needed, but if you need a key for ongoing activities, please contact the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Wunder at 860-525-0894 or jane.wunder@emanuelhartford.org.

God With Us Distribution

Thanks to everyone for helping us go green! We now are sending out slightly fewer than 100 printed copies of God With Us (down from 300+ copies) -- saving much paper as well as postage. If your email address is on file with the Church Office, then we have directed your God With Us reminder to that address. If you haven't done so already, check out this online version -- the email reminder provides an easy link to this

color version of God With Us. For those who are at home and/or do not have access to a computer, we will gladly continue to send the hard copy God With Us. If you receive it online, but sometimes like to have the printed version, there are copies available in the rack at the back of the church and in the chapel.

Thank you!

Enjoy the details of balance sheets, net asset classifications and fixed assets?

The audit of Emanuel's 2016 financials was completed by Blum Shapiro and presented to Emanuel's Council and Finance Committee in June. This is the second full audit of Emanuel's books. In preparation for the first full audit (of 2015 financials), a great deal of time was spent on bringing our *operational accounting* and reporting into compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices, or GAAP. For 2016, an added priority was applying GAAP to our *endowment assets*, consolidating donor documentation, and confirming endowment practices with donor intentions. And now the audit of 2017 financials has already begun, with Blum Shapiro completing their fieldwork last month -- we fully expect this year's process to be far less time consuming and smooth sailing now that the new accounting procedures and controls are in place.

Any member of Emanuel is most welcome to review the final Blum Shapiro audit reports for 2015 and 2016. Please contact the Church Office if you would like a copy!

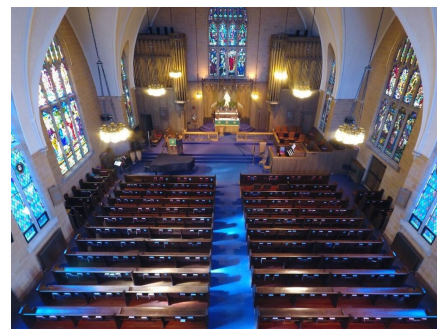


A Bird's Eye View?

Many of you have probably heard of "Drone Ranger" -- piloted by Chris Perkins for local news, this drone often reports on traffic conditions or aerial views of the season's best scenery. Recently, as we interviewed the engineering firm of DiBattisto Engineers for our West Tower investigation, Chris and Drone Ranger were here to help give the engineers some peeks at our masonry otherwise only visible from an expensive bucket truck. Drone Ranger took over 50 photos of the exterior. Drone Ranger also made a brief flight in

the church nave -- not much room for aerial navigation with the chandeliers, but the few photos certainly give us a wonderful perspective of how beautiful our worship space is!

Thank you to Lorri DiBattisto and to drone pilot Chris Perkins.



Thank You from Maryalice Mansbach

June 12, 2018

The Rev. Dr. Paula Mehmel
Emanuel Lutheran Church
311 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Pastor Paula, Pastor Elizabeth, and members of Emanuel:

Bob and I want to thank you for the meaningful memorial service held in memory of my sister, Elinor McCue. She would have been so touched by the sermon, the service and the music. Emanuel was special to Elinor and her church provided the right place and community needed. We felt the presence of God at the service, demonstrated by the support of so many members and friends.

In addition, thank you for all of your cards, visits, flowers, and love shown to Elinor, both in recent months and in the past. We truly appreciate your demonstration of active Christian love.

Sincerely,

Maryalice Mansbach

Building with Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent Financial

Building on Faith



EMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN THE CITY FOR GOOD



Hartford Area
Habitat
for Humanity®

Emanuel Lutheran will be *building* with *Habitat for Humanity* and *Thrivent Financial* on September 29th




- We will work on several houses on the same parcel in Hartford
- 16 is the minimum age for volunteers to be on site
- 18 is the minimum age to use power tools
- 5 is the minimum number of Volunteers required to build
- 12 is the maximum number of volunteers per house

Schedule

7:45 AM—8:00 AM	Check In
8:00 AM—8:30 AM	Mandatory Training
8:30 AM—2:30 PM	Build!

Register at: <http://hartfordhabitat.org/bof/>

If you have any questions please ask Mike Nowak.



**We are featured in
Hands on Hartford's
News Letter**

Hands on
Caring in Action | HARTFORD
Founded in 1969 as Center City Churches

June and July 2018 News

Hands On Hartford, in partnership with others, strengthens community in Hartford by responding faithfully to people in need through programs that change lives and renew human possibility.

Faith In Action

We have the honor of partnering with Emanuel Lutheran Church through our Neighborhood Services and MANNA Community Pantry. In addition to their generous monthly financial and inkind support, Emanuel Lutheran has provided a special grant to enable us to assist folks referred to us by them. We love this opportunity for so many reasons: a way to reach more of our Hartford neighbors, a way to strengthen our relationship with Emanuel Lutheran as a community partner, and a beautiful connection to our roots as Center City Churches.

Back in 1969 (nearly 50 years ago!) Emanuel Lutheran was one of the founding congregations which came together to form Center City Churches so as to more effectively serve folks in Hartford most affected by poverty. We are so grateful to see our long-term partnership continuing in this impactful way.

EMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN THE CITY FOR GOOD

Worship Ministries for August

Assisting Ministers

August 5 Janice Favreau
 August 12 Mal Doyle
 August 19 Monica Swanson
 August 26 Alan Meeds

Communion Preparers

August 5 Bobbee Canfield
 August 12 Marjorie Johnson
 August 19 Ellen Anderson
 August 26 Val & Craig McDonald

Greeters

August 5 Silvana Carreon, Amy Couch & Melissa Akerley
 August 12 Bobbie Canfield
 August 19 TBD
 August 26 Lorraine McCann, Lois House

Lectors

8:00 a.m.
 August 5 Monique Jennings
 August 12 Randy Olson
 August 19 Christine Dalton
 August 26 Kathy Haller

10:00 a.m.
 August 5 Janice Favreau
 August 12 Eleanor Meeds
 August 19 Bill Farquhar
 August 26 Alan Meeds

Ushers/Communion Preparers

(8:00 AM Service)

Aug 5 Nelson Gottier
 Aug 12 Nelson Gottier
 Aug 19 Bob Vojtek
 Aug 26 Bob Vojtek

Would you like to help with Sunday Worship? Please contact our ministry coordinators:

Greeters	Eileen Mitchell	860-688-4867
Lectors.....	Lynn Sherman	860-523-1702
Ushers.....	Jim Ashwell	860-667-0264
Assisting Ministers	Janice Favreau	860-978-1681
Sound & Recording	Jonathan Reuning-Scherer	

The 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston



Special Emanuel Birthdays in August

Emerrene Bailey (August 8), Virginia Morse (August 9), Jean Bronson (August 11), Abby Stadlander (August 11), Peggy Zachariasen (August 11), Paul Hartung (August 16), Jeannette Urban (August 18), Ramona Pergande (August 29)

*Happy
Birthday*

Special Emanuel Anniversaries in August

Glenna and Chet Brodnicki (August 20)

*Happy
Anniversary*



Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

Brynn Murphy † Clayton Medling † Elyanna Roman † Yvonne Gardner †
Barbara Blakeslee † Burt Hedling † Betty Fairchild † Emre †
Brook Nowak † Mal Doyle † Tracy Frank † Dr. Candi Carroccia † Karin Gottier †
Rudy Peterson † Carol Johnson † Elaine Wilson † Joan Feldmann † Doris Barron †
Betty-Lois Benson † Inger Swanson † Beverly Swanson

Altar Flower Order Form

Please make checks payable to Emanuel Lutheran Church and note "Altar Flowers" on the memo line. Place your check or \$45 along with the order form below in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Date for Altar Flowers: _____

In Honor/Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please Contact the Church Office (860-525-0894) if you have any questions.

August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST † Services at 8:00 and 10:00 am	30	31 • 10:00 AM Craft Group • 5:00 Manna Meal	August 1	2	3 • 3:30 – 9:00 PM Friday Night Program	4 • 10:30 Davis Renewal of Vows in Chapel.
5 11TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST † Services at 8:00 and 10:00 am	6 • 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School	7 • 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School • 10:00 AM Craft Group • 7:00 PM Neonatal Bereavement	8 • 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School	9 • 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School	10 • 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School • 3:30 – 9:00 PM Friday Night Program	11
12 12TH PENTECOST † Services at 8:00 and 10:00 am	13	14 • 10:00 AM Craft Group • 7:00 PM Property Committee	15	16	17 • 3:30 – 9:00 PM Friday Night Program	18
19 13TH PENTECOST † Services at 8:00 and 10:00 am	20	21 • 10:00 AM Craft Group	22	23	24 • 3:30 – 9:00 PM Friday Night Program	25
26 14TH PENTECOST † Services at 8:00 and 10:00 am • Dress Down /Spruce Up Sunday	27	28 • 10:00 AM Craft Group • 7:00 PM Church Council	29	30	31 • 3:30 – 9:00 PM Friday Night Program	September 1
2 15TH PENTECOST † Services at 8:00 and 10:00 am	3 Labor Day – Church Office Closed	4 • 10:00 AM Craft Group • 7:00 PM Neonatal Bereavement	5	6 • 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	7 • 3:30 – 9:00 PM Friday Night Program	

GOD WITH US

Emanuel Lutheran Church

311 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, CT 06106

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IN THE CITY FOR GOOD

Emanuel Lutheran Church

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Dr. Paula V. Mehmel, Pastor

Church Office: 860-525-0894