



IN THE CITY FOR GOOD

[Emanuel Calendar](#)

[Give to Emanuel](#)



Community Of Faith That Shares A  
Passion For Making Positive Changes

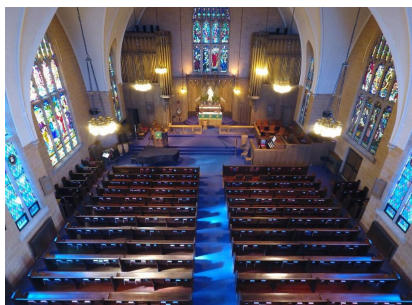
[Worship Bulletin](#)

[Food Pantry Needs](#)

## Emanuel News - December 1, 2023 (Updated with Correct Birthday List)

All are welcome at worship, but we, of course, ask that you remain home if you are feeling unwell. Our live-streaming provides an alternative way to experience worship.

You may join 10 AM worship via our YouTube Livestream. Just visit our YouTube page to connect. The link is later in this email.



**Weekly happenings are listed later in this email with their associated Zoom links if they are virtual.**

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## New Announcements

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### A Thank You from the Food Pantry Committee

Thank you to everyone who donated food for our Thanksgiving drive! For December we ask that you donate paper towels, new socks, gloves, and scarves. If you are ordering items online to donate, please have them sent to your address and then deliver them to the church. All donations are greatly appreciated.

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### ELCA Good Gifts



It's that time of year again when we start planning for Christmas which always includes finding just the right gifts for our family and friends. Most of us are very lucky to have more than we need or even want. So, I have a suggestion. In addition to whatever you choose to buy for your loved ones, why not also purchase a "good gift" in their honor?

The ELCA has a variety of "good gifts" that will help people in need in the U.S. and around the world. For example, you can purchase a pig, goat, or even bees. You can give school supplies, Bibles, mosquito netting and much more.

The items in the ELCA Good Gifts catalog are real examples from projects currently supported through different ELCA churchwide ministries. The projects have been planned by our partners – meaning that each community receives exactly the kind of support they need and none of what they don't. Good Gift donations will be used where it is needed most within the wider category of each gift selected. For example, a gift of vaccinations may be used to support other health care initiatives. This allows our churchwide ministries to stay adaptive, flexible, and effective in the work that we do.

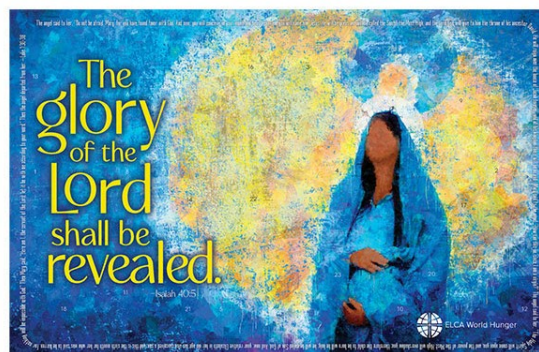
The ELCA Good Gifts website even allows you to surprise your loved one with a card that shows a picture of your gift with an explanation of its use. The card is a perfect stocking stuffer. To select and give an ELCA Good Gift, [click here to see the catalog and give a Good Gift](#). I did.

Thanks, Lynn Sherman

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## Advent 2023 Resources Available This Sunday

This year's ELCA World Hunger Advent resources are now available! The theme for this year's materials is "The glory of the Lord shall be revealed." Where and how do you encounter God? Through the prophet Isaiah, God urges us to take comfort, trusting that "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together" (Isaiah 40:5).



This year's materials include an Advent Calendar and an Advent Study with four weekly reflections. Please see Paul Christianson who will be distributing these resources on Sunday, or pick up your copies at the back of the worship space.

## Small Group Meet and Greet: Thursday, Dec. 7

Next Thursday, December 7th, at 4pm, Rosie and Bob Vojtek are hosting a Small Group Meet and Greet at Gather 55 in Hartford. If you'd like to join, [click this link](#) to the Sign-Up Genius or contact Maureen Leyes at (860) 212-5492.

### Information regarding Small Group Meet and Greets:

We are looking for people to host such small group gatherings, and for folks to go and participate in them. These meet and greets provide intentional opportunities to get to know Pastor Mark and Kari, learn their story and reciprocally, for them to get to know us better! Some gatherings will be held in the homes of Emanuel members and others will be convened at Emanuel. They can be at any time of day or evening and can include coffee and cake or whatever light refreshment you would like to offer. We would like to suggest that you invite those you know and we can additionally include others in your geographical area that can sign up to go to a particular gathering. This is a great opportunity for us to get to know each other, as well!

## A Word of Thanks and an Ongoing Invitation

**Thank you!** Thank you to all who returned their 2024 estimate of giving card in time for last week's Commitment Sunday! If you have not yet returned your card, rest assured there is still time to do so. We invite you to please return your estimate of giving card for 2024 as soon as possible. You may do so by placing your card in the offering plate on Sunday, or by mailing or emailing it to the church office. Extra copies of the estimate of giving card are still available at the back of the worship space or can be requested from the church office.



As we reminded ourselves this fall, we are church, we are called, and in response to all that God has first given us, we respond by using our God-given gifts and abilities for the

sake of the gospel and the world. Sharing generously of our financial gifts makes our congregation's many and varied ministries possible, and our estimates of giving for next year help our congregation better plan for our mission and ministry together. Thank you for all the ways in which you are so generous in response to all that God has already done for us!

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## A Special Opportunity for Those 70½ Years and Older

As the end of the year approaches, did you know that you can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$100,000) per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as Emanuel Lutheran Church and/or other ELCA ministries without having to pay income taxes on the money? Gifts of any value \$100,000 or less are eligible for this benefit and can be a great way to support the mission and ministry of the church. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short. QCDs can also be used for Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from IRAs and retirement plan accounts for people who must withdraw annually starting with the year they reach age 72 (73 if they reached age 72 after Dec. 31, 2022).

Why consider such a gift?

- Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the difference your gift is making.
- If you are required to take minimum distributions, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your RMD obligation.
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.

If you have any questions about these giving options or would like more information on how to arrange them, you may speak with Jack LeBlond or Pastor Mark.

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## Bible Study

Click [this link](#) for John Foote's Bible Study!

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## Stewardship Ministry Team



Leveraging his experience gained in his last call as the ELCA's Senior Director for Congregational Stewardship and Generosity, Pastor Mark is now leading our congregation's effort to form a new Stewardship Ministry Team. Please let him know if you are interested in joining the team.

As you ponder and pray about your willingness to help with this new team, please consider a few foundational stewardship principles:

- We are not title-holders living in a world that we own and control, but rather we are stewards of what God has entrusted to us.
- Christian stewardship is rooted in God's gift of Jesus Christ to us, and we are entrusted with sharing this gift.
- Through God's grace, we freely receive God's gifts and have permission to use these gifts on God's behalf, based on God's priorities, for the good of all.
- Stewardship has to do with every aspect of living out our faith, including our relationships, our health, our gifts and abilities, our finances, our various callings, and our relationship with creation.
- Stewardship Ministry Teams encourage other followers of Jesus to use their gifts to participate in God's work in the world today.

If you think God may be calling you to help be a part of our Stewardship Ministry Team, please contact Pastor Mark @ [pastorolsen@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:pastorolsen@emanuelhartford.org)

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## Sign Up to Donate Altar Flowers

Each Sunday we are blessed to have beautiful flowers in the sanctuary. You can sponsor these flowers by easily accessing the Sign-Up Genius at this [link](#) or by calling the church office at 860-525-0894. You can give the flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone. You might want to mark a special birthday or anniversary or even give thanks for one of our ministry teams that is special to you. Your donation of \$75 will cover the cost of the flowers. Please sign up so that we can continue to have lovely floral arrangements each week. Thank you.

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## A Message from Hannah Maynard on Sunday School and Confirmation Class Closings:

Hello Sunday School and Confirmation Class Families!

Historically, Sunday School and Confirmation Classes at Emanuel Lutheran have not been held on/around Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and Easter. We believe that at these times, children and youth should be present in worship with their families, seeing as the holidays are all about spending time with loved ones!

Sunday School and Confirmation Class will NOT be held on the following dates:

November 26th  
December 24th  
December 31st  
March 31st (Easter)

We hope that on these days, families can enjoy the power of worship as a whole family unit. :)

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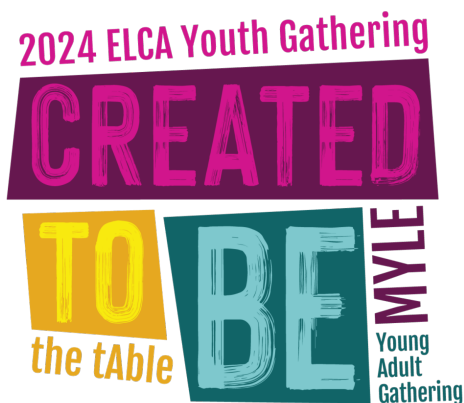
## St. Lucia Festival

The 110th annual St. Lucia Festival will be held on Friday, December 15th at 7:00 pm. Advance tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets may be purchased online



using this [link](#) or in person at church during Coffee Hour on Sundays. Walk-in ticket prices for the night of the performance are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Non-perishable food donations for our food pantry are welcomed and appreciated. Come and see this wonderful tradition brought to life by the young people of Emanuel.

## Emanuel Youth Gift Basket Fundraiser



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will be holding the next Youth Gathering in July 2024! It has been since 2018 that the ELCA has been able to gather for this life changing event. Typically, the Gathering is held every three years. The Gathering's mission of faith formation in young people is the focus for this powerful and transformational ministry.

Emanuel Lutheran Church (ELC) adult youth leaders are preparing to accompany ELC youth who are now 8th graders through 12th graders.

The Gathering's motto, "Created to Be", from Psalm 139:14 speaks to all: "I will give thanks and praise to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well".

The Gathering welcomes those youth participating in the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE), youth with disabilities (tAble), and all who are eligible by grade to participate in the Gathering. The goal of the Gathering is to create environments and opportunities for faith formation through worship, interactive learning, Bible study, service, and fellowship.

To support our Youth who will be going the Gathering and to help cover their costs of attending, the youth are planning a fundraiser to raffle themed gift baskets. It would be great to have a variety of baskets to offer and if you would like to contribute by creating a basket or simply donating a gift card to your favorite establishment to raffle, that would be great! **Raffle tickets will be offered for purchase on November 26, December 3rd and 10th and the winners will be chosen on December 10th during coffee hour.**

Ideas for themed baskets:

- Game night basket
- Coffee basket
- Movie night basket
- Wine basket
- Beer basket

Candy basket  
Charcuterie board basket  
Hot cocoa basket

Comments or questions may be directed to Maureen Leyes or Naomi Ngoma. Thank you for your support of the Youth Ministry at Emanuel!

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## Are you interested in becoming a member of Emanuel?

Are you interested in becoming a member of Emanuel? If you're interested, please contact Rick Liljedahl at [rliljedahl@aol.com](mailto:rliljedahl@aol.com). All are welcome!

## Ministry and Fellowship Opportunities

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### Lectors Needed for 10 AM Worship

Each month it is nice to have a variety of lectors to read the lessons during worship. I would like to enlist anyone regardless of age who is comfortable reading from the lectern. Once you volunteer and pick a date, I will let you know when your lessons are posted on the church website so that you can practice at home. If you would be interested in participating in this ministry please don't wait to be asked.

You can email Lynn Sherman at [lynnsherman480@gmail.com](mailto:lynnsherman480@gmail.com) or call her at (860)550-0518. You may also call the church office at (860)525-0894

I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks, Lynn.

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### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawls are available for anyone to take for themselves or give to a friend or family member. There is a basket with shawls in the Narthex and a larger supply in the lounge in the Parish Building. Please take a shawl and write your name on the list provided so that we can keep track of the number of shawls that are given. In addition, we have Baby Blankets for any newborns that you may know. Those are in the lounge in the Parish Building. If you need help finding a shawl or baby blanket, the members of the Prayer Shawl Committee will be happy to help. They are Bobbee Canfield, Lynne Strecker, Abby Stadlander and Lynn Sherman.

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### Coffee Hour

After each Sunday 10 AM service, friends and members at the church meet in Luther Hall to catch up with each other, check out various activities being hosted by the church, and to enjoy some delicious coffee or tea with friends. If you would like to help, please sign up for a Sunday coffee hour service. We can always use the extra help,

and absolutely no experience is required. If you've never hosted before or need instruction contact Naomi, and we will arrange for someone to meet you there and walk you through the process. Thank you for hosting coffee hour and God bless you! Use the link below to sign up or contact [naomi.ngoma@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:naomi.ngoma@emanuelhartford.org).

[Coffee Hour Sign Up](#)

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## Ongoing Announcements

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### Emanuel Pastoral Care Phone Line

Emanuel maintains a dedicated pastoral care phone line. Should you have a pastoral care need, please call 860-365-9510.

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### Can You Help Deliver Food Pantry Bags?

There are many people who are unable to come to our Food Pantry in person. We need help delivering bags of food to those individuals and families. Food that needs to be delivered from the Food Pantry to food insecure families, with addresses, are located in the the Narthex after the Service. Please participate in this important ministry and take a bag after 10AM worship. Deliver it on your way home.

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### December Birthdays

Karl Fransson 1  
Lorpu Kona Morris 1  
Carol Johnson 2  
Lynn Sherman 2  
Donald Smith III 3  
Lisa Karim 4  
Brynn Murphy 5  
Elaine Krause 6  
David Altschuler 9  
Karin Stetson 10  
William Wieber 11  
Rhiannon Kiersznowski 12  
Colton Liljedahl 12  
Tage Liljedahl 16  
Yvonne Gardner 17  
James Flanders 18  
Eleanor Olson 18  
Grant Kiehne 19  
Julian Rizzo 19



Richard Allison 20  
Kai Hazard 21  
Russell Liljedahl 21  
Elijah Nyama 22  
Alan Anderson 23  
Aurora Nestor 24  
Kenneth Wieber 24  
Patty Swanson 26  
Maria Flanders 27  
Brittany Caldwell 28  
Wendi Johnson 30

(Please send any corrections to [adminassist@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:adminassist@emanuelhartford.org))

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## Food Pantry Announcements

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### Food Pantry Foods of the Month

All donations to the Food Pantry are greatly appreciated. This month, we are starting a Thanksgiving Drive. We ask that you donate items from the following list: canned ham, instant potatoes, cake or cookie mix, tea or lemonade mix, oil, and canned vegetables. The Food Pantry also asks that you consider donating paper towels and toilet paper.

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### Food Pantry Volunteers

The Food Pantry will operate on Sundays from 12-1 (it is closed the first Sunday of each month) and every other Tuesday from 2-4. Our target with the Tuesday pantry is Capitol Towers, where we will be open for their residents. This is a wonderful way to continue a symbiotic relationship with a place so dear to the hearts of members of Emanuel.

Please fill out [this form](#) and bring it with you when you come to volunteer for the first time.

Volunteer opportunities for "**Tuesdays Pantry 2pm to 4pm**" are now open. Please click on the following web link (or copy it into your web browser if clicking doesn't work) to go to the signup sheet:

[volunteersignup.org/L7EBJ](https://volunteersignup.org/L7EBJ)

Volunteer opportunities for "**Sunday Pantry Signup**" are now open.

Please click on the following web link (or copy it into your web browser if clicking doesn't work) to go to the signup sheet:

[volunteersignup.org/MKCKX](https://volunteersignup.org/MKCKX)

To sign up, just follow the instructions on the page. It only takes a few seconds to do.

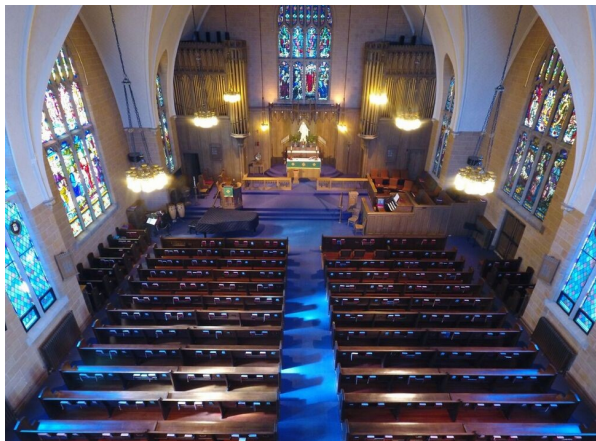
Thank you for volunteering!

# Worship Resources

## Weekly Church Events

Prayer Shawl Ministry-Thursdays at 9:30 AM

## Live Stream Worship On YouTube



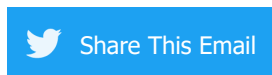
Our live streaming worship services are available on our YouTube channel. The link for the channel is below. Once you are there, make sure that, in addition to watching the videos available, you also subscribe to the channel. There should be a button that says “subscribe.” Once you are subscribed, you should get emails telling you when new videos are posted so that you can keep up with everything that is available.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3L556BMUrMuTGsa1BJvjHA>

The worship bulletins are always available at

<https://emanuelhartford.org/worship/sunday-worship-bulletins/>

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### Emanuel Lutheran Church

Contact Us

311 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860.525.0894



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