



60 Church Street  
Manchester, CT 06040

(860) 643-1193  
Fax (860) 645-0830

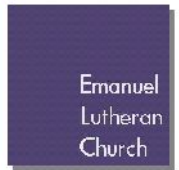
Email: [aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org](mailto:aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org)  
Website: [www.emanuelmanchester.org](http://www.emanuelmanchester.org)

**February 2018**

# Emanuel Lutheran Church



A Member of the New England Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,  
a "Reconciling In Christ" Congregation



# Visitor

## From the Pastor

### *Church Membership...*

#### *A Biblical Point of View*

One of the responsibilities of an Interim Pastor is to work with the staff to "clean up" the congregational rolls to more accurately reflect the congregation's current membership. As part of this work, I've spent a lot of time thinking about what it really **means** to be a church "member". As you can probably guess—church "membership" is actually a topic for which many people have many different opinions.

There are some who would say that local church membership is not something you find in the Bible. They would quote Romans 12:5, "*so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually, we are members one of another*". To many this describes the Church with a capital "C"—or what we might call the "global Church". No matter what "brand" of Christian we claim, we are all part of the Body of Christ on earth—the "big C"—Church.

Others might focus on the "house churches" that grew throughout the time of the apostles. We especially see this reflected in the writings of the Apostle Paul. Some claim that there was no *formal* membership in a local church at that time, but I think there may be some evidence that the early Christians had some idea of membership in these "house churches."

In Paul's letter to Philemon, he writes regarding a former servant of Philemon's named Onesimus. Paul is doing everything he can to have Onesimus accepted back into the "house church"; including reminding Philemon how much he owes Paul...

*If he (Onesimus) has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul...will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. (Philemon 1:18-19)*

This passage seems to suggest some sort of protocol for belonging to a local church, even a first century "house church".

According to the *Book of the Acts of the Apostles* (2:42-47), church activities included the following practices - believers met with the apostles daily for teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and for prayer. So if you were a Christian in the early church, you were instructed daily by someone who could teach you with some theological authority.

We also see other expectations of those who *belonged* to these early church communities:

- Believers sold their possessions;
- They distributed the proceeds to all, and to any who had need;
- They spent time together in worship;
- They broke bread at home, and ate with glad and generous hearts;
- They praised God, and
- They kept in mind the good will of all people.

The word *Ekklesia*—from the original Greek word which we translate as *church*—appears in the New Testament 114 times, mostly in the writings of Paul. *Ekklesia* literally means "a gathering of people, an assembly."

*continued on page 2*

1

From the Pastor

2

From the Pastor (cont.)  
Sunday School Update

3

From the Parish Nurse

4

February Church Events

5

Transition Process Timeline

6

Transition Times

7

Caring  
Ash Wednesday Worship Services

8

Liederabend Concert

#### Insert:

February 2018 Calendar and  
February Lay Minister Schedule

## From the Pastor...

(continued from page 1)

It's worth noting the word *synagogue* also means "a gathering of people, an assembly," and appears 56 times in the New Testament, 34 of which are in the Gospels.

What we need to understand is that for the 1<sup>st</sup> century Church, the **theological call of church membership** was that disciples were sent to make disciples. Believers were sent to proclaim God's Word, to baptize and teach, and to serve those in need, so that all might come to know God's love and become followers of Jesus Christ. In so doing, local churches were created as the blessed outcome of the disciples reaching out to others; which brings us to the reason God created the Church—the most important point of what it means to truly **be church**.

The real test of membership for any church is our call to **discipleship**—the **Biblical principal** for people who become believers in Jesus Christ...

1. Disciples are involved in the Church's mission
2. They participate in the church's upkeep
3. They adhere to the church's beliefs
4. They live a faithful life, and
5. They continue to study God's Word

(After all, "disciple" means to be a **student** who assists in spreading the teachings of another...in our case, the teachings of Jesus Christ).

In other words, disciples are those called to **build up** the church, both locally and globally...caring for and up-keeping both the local congregation and the "capital C" Church—in all its missions & ministries.

The Apostle Paul tells us that being a *member* of a church includes being:

- People who are caring – Romans 12; 1 Cor 12
- People who share the burdens of others – Galatians 6:2; 1 Cor 12:26
- People who encourage one another – 1 Cor 14; Romans 1:12
- People who serve one another – 1 Cor 12:7
- People who submit to Christ – Ephesians 5
- People who pray for one another – 2 Cor 1& 9
- People who love one another – Romans 13:8
- People who give offerings to the church's work and mission – Philippians 4:18

Being a "member" of both a local church and the "Big C" Church is a commitment which means much more than just having our name in a roll book; much more than having been baptized or confirmed in a certain place that we call "church".

It means living a faithful life as an active part of a faith community; it means continuing to study God's Word and growing in our faith; it means living out

## Sunday School Update

From Christine Carlson

our call to advocate for & serve those in need, and it means accepting the responsibility, along with the gifts, that come with the privilege of being a disciple of Jesus - and a member of God's Church.

Now that's a *membership* that has *meaning*!

Pastor Maria

### Sunday school families be on the look out for some upcoming events happening at Emanuel!

Souper Bowl Sunday, **February 4<sup>th</sup>**, the children will be collecting money for MACC at the end of the church service with large soup pots.

During the months of February/March, the children will be learning about their service Project, ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts. They will learn about the importance of solar powered lighting for children in Africa. Come join us on **March 11<sup>th</sup>** to hear the children do their presentation and help raise money for solar powered lanterns with the Sunday school children!

On **March 18<sup>th</sup>** we will be holding our Early Communion Workshop and the children will receive Communion for the first time in Easter Sunday! Please contact me, Christine Carlson, by email to [ccarlson@emanuelmanchester.org](mailto:ccarlson@emanuelmanchester.org) or the Church Office if your child is interested in attending this workshop!

On **April 1<sup>st</sup>**, Easter Sunday, all kids ages 10 and under are welcomed to join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt following the second service. After church please head down to the community room for some crafts and an Easter story, followed by an Easter Egg hunt in the sanctuary where 400 Eggs will be hidden and six golden Eggs! Fun for everyone!

Christine Carlson

Director of Family Ministries

There will be a Children's Sermon  
on Sunday, February 18th  
at our 10:30 AM worship service.



We will resume our two Worship Services  
(8:45 AM & 10:30 AM)  
on Sunday, February 18th.

## From the Parish Nurse

By Lynne Gustafson

As far back as I can remember, February has been designated as "Cardiovascular Month". This is the month when various health organizations focus on cardiovascular education, information on ground-breaking research, and training programs such as CPR and AED. This year the American Heart Association's campaign slogan is "Love your Heart". They state that on Valentine's Day 2018, 2,200 Americans will die from heart disease and stroke. Many of these deaths could be prevented if people were aware of the early signs of stroke and heart disease.



According to the National Stroke Association, people who experience symptoms of T.I.A. (Transient Ischemic Attack) often do not seek medical attention because they attribute these symptoms to other causes or the symptoms occur for such a brief period of time, they ignore them. So they have coined the acronym F.A.S.T. It stands for these symptoms: **F**acial drooping, **A**rm weakness, **S**peech difficulties and **T**ime. If one is experiencing these symptoms, call 911 immediately. This is essential because there are medications, when given quickly, that can minimize the effects of a stroke and the person may have a better outcome. The Cleveland Clinic reports that by identifying mini strokes early, a person will be able to prevent future strokes by making life style changes. These changes include stop smoking, exercise, weight loss, and reduction of high cholesterol and high blood pressure.

Stroke is one of the cardiovascular diseases; heart attacks the other. The warning signs of a heart attack include discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes or that goes away and comes back. One may also have discomfort in other parts of the upper body including one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach. One may also experience shortness of breath, cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness. Women may present differently. Women's most common symptoms are more likely to be shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting and back and jaw pain. If any of these symptoms occur, call 911 immediately.

Cardiac arrest is the sudden unexpected loss of heart function, breathing and consciousness. It results in an electrical disturbance in the heart that disrupts its pumping action and stops the flow of blood to the rest of the body. This is truly a medical emergency. To enhance the chances of survival, CPR, defibrillation (AED) or just chest compressions

must be started immediately. The American Red Cross estimates that it usually takes EMS personnel 8-10 minutes to respond to a cardiac event; however, if an AED is available and people are trained to use it, that response time is four minutes—saving around 50,000 lives yearly. The AED analyzes the heart's rhythm; and delivers an electric shock known as defibrillation that helps establish an effective cardiac rhythm.

In 2011, Emanuel purchased an AED. It is located on the wall next to the door to the church office. A First Aid Kit is attached above the AED. At the time of purchase several parishioners and staff were trained in the use of the AED and CPR. It has been seven years since we did the last training and several trained personnel are no longer with us. So it is time that we review our present emergency procedures and policies and identify people who are willing to be AED and CPR trained. If you are willing to be trained, please contact either the church office 860-643-1193 or the Parish Nurse, [cgustafson01@snet.net](mailto:cgustafson01@snet.net).



### Winter storms

Please tune in to TV—NBC 30, WFSB 3 and WTNH 8 to check if the Church Office is **CLOSED** or if Sunday worship or other events are **CANCELLED**. Please note, if there is a parking ban in Manchester, worship services will be **CANCELLED**.

**Here is an easy way for you to help Emanuel's Youth get to Houston for the 2018 National Youth Gathering this June!**



In June, 14 youth and four adult leaders from Emanuel will be attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston. The donation site link below makes it easy for families and friends to assist in fundraising for everyone so they can attend the Gathering. All contributions will be greatly appreciated! God Bless!

[www.youcaring.com/EmanuelManchesterNYG2018](http://www.youcaring.com/EmanuelManchesterNYG2018)



## Church Events

### Healing Prayer Worship Service Sunday, February 4th



Healing Prayer is available for all who would like to receive it during our single worship service at 10:00 AM. We'll also collect donations for the Samaritan Fund in the Narthex.

### Souper Bowl of Caring: February 4th

Each year the youth of Emanuel help to fight hunger in our neighborhood! At the end of our single worship service, the Sunday School children will invite worshipers to donate generously in the large soup pots that will be held at the exits of the sanctuary. All of the proceeds will go directly to MACC (Manchester Area Conference of Churches) to support what they do on a daily basis to fight hunger and homelessness in Manchester.



Also, after worship, you may pick up "Soup to Go!" down in Luther Hall. The NYG youth will be on hand to send you home with a 24 oz. container of soup (potato, vegetable or chicken noodle), a roll and two cookies to have before or during the game! Cost per container pack: \$10. There is no need to place an order. Soup will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Thanks in advance for supporting the youth attending the National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas in June!

### Ruth Circle Tuesday, February 6th 12 noon in Luther Hall



Please bring a brown bag lunch. A DVD (to be determined) will be shown. Hostesses for the afternoon are Carol Adams, Barbara Heinrich and Jeannine Johnson.

### Women's Breakfast Wednesday, February 7th at 8:30 AM The Gathering, Hartford Rd., Manchester



### Men's Breakfast Wednesday, February 14th at 8:30 AM Friendly's, Buckland Rd., Manchester



We will resume our two Worship Services on Sundays at 8:45 AM & 10:30 AM on February 18th.

### Do you shop on amazon.com?

Well, if you do, you now have the opportunity to support Emanuel just by shopping at Amazon.

To connect with Emanuel as a charity, follow this link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-0662122>.

You will continue to shop at the same Amazon you love, but you will enter the site through a different link.



Once you sign up, then each time you shop you will enter [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) in your browser and you will automatically be connected with Emanuel as your chosen charity!

If you have any questions about the program, or if you have difficulties finding Emanuel through the Smile link, please contact Anne Heinrich by email: [ahenrich@emanuelmanchester.org](mailto:ahenrich@emanuelmanchester.org) or call the Church Office, 860-643-1193.

The Church Office will be CLOSED on Monday, February 19th in observance of Presidents' Day.



### Wednesday Evening Lenten Program with Concordia Lutheran and St. Mary's Episcopal

Beginning February 21 – March 21

6:30 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM Program



All evenings will be held at Concordia Lutheran (40 Pitkin Street, Manchester)

Each Wednesday the discussion will focus on a different day of Holy Week.

2/21 – Introduction/Overview  
2/28 – Maundy Thursday  
3/7 – Good Friday  
3/14 – Vigil  
3/21 – wrap-up

*All are welcome!*

### The Flower Chart for 2018 is posted in the Office Hallway.



Now is the time to sign up for Altar or Lectern Flowers to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. You may call the Church Office at 860-643-1193 to check if a particular date is available.

---

## Transition Process Timeline 2018 - Emanuel Lutheran Church, Manchester

<b>January 14</b>	<b>Congregational Town Meeting</b> (lunch provided; One Service Sunday) <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Detailed Explanation of Transition Process; Q&amp;A</li><li>2. General Description of Call Process</li></ol>
<b>February 11</b>	<b>Congregational Town Meeting</b> (pot luck; One Service Sunday) <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Beginning of Conversation - <i>Where is God Leading Us?</i> ... Dreams/Fears</li></ol>
<b>February 20</b>	<b>Council meeting – approve Transition Team</b> <i>Commission Transition Team at Worship on March</i>
<b>March 11</b>	<b>History Event</b> (lunch provided; One Service Sunday)
<b>Mid-March- Mid-April</b>	<b>Small Group meetings</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Continue Conversation Dreams/Fears &amp; God's Leading (Spring Break – April 9-13)</li></ol>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Council meeting – approve Call Committee</b>
<b>April 22</b>	<b>Congregational Town Meeting</b> (pot luck; One Service Sunday) <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Summary of Dreams/Fears &amp; God's Leading Conversation</li><li>2. Detailed explanation of Call Process (Q&amp;A)</li><li>3. Explanation of CAT; Parishioners begin to fill out CAT<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- provide opportunities on Sunday mornings during fellowship time, both online &amp; paper, with assistance available (\$6 per paper copy, better option to have someone enter data from paper with witness)</li><li>- about 100 questions, takes approximately 20 minutes</li></ul></li></ol>
<b>May 7</b>	<b>Final day for CAT input; CAT officially closed so results can be processed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Processed by "Holy Cow" experts; results sent to Synod</li></ul>
<b>May 18/19</b>	<b>Congregational Gatherings - CAT Interpretation &amp; MSP Workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ with Pastor Paul Sinnott, Associate to the Bishop</li><li>❖ Critical for all; especially Council, Transition Team, Call Committee</li></ul> <p><b>May 18, Friday evening, 7-9 p.m.</b> (coffee &amp; desserts provided) <b>Congregational gathering for CAT Interpretation</b></p> <p><b>May 19, Saturday morning, 9a.m.-1 p.m.</b> (lunch provided) <b>Congregational gathering: CAT Workshop</b></p> <p>9 a.m.-12 p.m. Workshop to begin writing Ministry Site Profile (MSP) 12:00-1:00 pm Wrap-up (Q&amp;A); Congregation departs, except for ...<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Pastor Sinnott meets with Call Committee &amp; Council</li><li>▪ Transition Team begins writing MSP using group MSPs &amp; CAT; draft to be completed &amp; to Council in ~2 weeks</li></ul></p>
<b>[June - Community Demographics &amp; Community Needs Assessment - save for Vision process?]</b>	
<b>June 10</b>	<b>Special Council Meeting with Transition Team to discuss/approve MSP</b>
<b>June 17</b>	<b>Special Congregational Meeting</b> (lunch provided; One Service Sunday) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Presentation of MSP to Congregation for Discussion/Vote</li><li>- Financial Discussion regarding New Pastor Package</li></ul>
<b>June 18</b>	<b>Ministry Site Profile sent to Synod to begin Call Process Candidate Search</b>

# Transition Times

From Pastor Maria Hammons

Dear Friends in Christ...

Our transition journey has officially begun ... here's the latest!

At our town meeting on Sunday, January 14, we began our conversation about Emanuel's transition process. After a description of the why and how of the intentional interim and transition process, a timeline for the transition was handed out. (*A copy of the timeline is included on page 5 of this newsletter.*)

While the transition timeline and schedule have been set, it is possible that it may have to be adapted if weather impedes our progress, or if we find we need more time to discuss/resolve issues that arise in our conversations together.



During our conversation, some of those present wondered if there was a reason for the extended timeline and if this was something special that only Emanuel was going through. 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 where God is leading you for this next part of your faith journey; to begin to define a vision - your faith-filled identity & purpose for today and for the future; and to assist with the pastoral call process in order to help match Emanuel with a pastor who has complimentary gifts & similar passions for mission.

I also introduced the topic we'll be discussing at our **next town meeting on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, after Worship**. At that meeting we will have a conversation about your hopes & dreams, as well as your fears & concerns for Emanuel's future. That discussion will then continue in small group gatherings during March and April. Look for more information regarding the dates, times, and locations of the small group meetings in the March newsletter. I hope you are able to join us for at least one of these discussions to share your thoughts, concerns, and insights.

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 compliments your gifts and call to mission.

Please know 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 these 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.

We are blessed to be a blessing! Trusting that God will lead us and show us the way!

*With prayers for the journey! Pastor Maria*

**I know not the way God leads me; But well do I know my guide. — Martin Luther**

## Caring

### February Birthdays

Erika Meier	2/3	Phyllis Carriere	2/15
Katharina Michels	2/5	Mary Reuter	2/20
Rodney Andersen	2/8	Matthew Heinrich, Jr.	2/27
Sylvia Hellstrom	2/11		



### Pastoral Acts

#### Funerals

Arnold Sauer      Terry Davis

Dear friends,  
Thank you so much for the many expressions of sympathy and for your prayers during Don's illness and after his death. That old saying still holds, "make new friends and keep the old, one is silver, the other is gold." You, my friends, are the gold!

Sincerely,  
Maude Carpenter



## Ash Wednesday

*Service of Holy Communion with  
Imposition of Ashes*

**February 14**  
**Services at Noon & 7:30 p.m.**

*Joint Services with  
Concordia Lutheran and St. Mary's Episcopal Church*

*Presiders:*

*Rev. Ann Lovejoy-Johnson  
Pastor Douglas Barclay*

*Preacher:*

*Pastor Maria Hammons*

**Both Services will be held at  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
41 Park Street, Manchester**

**All are welcome!**

### Emanuel Staff

(860) 643-1193

Pastor Maria Hammons  
pastormhammons@gmail.com  
Ext. 301

Cindy Hall, Deacon  
chall@emanuelmanchester.org  
Ext. 303

Christine Carlson  
Director of Family Ministries  
ccarlson@emanuelmanchester.org  
Ext. 304

Dr. Jun Lee  
Director of Music  
jlee@emanuelmanchester.org  
Ext. 307

Nancy Whiton  
Administrative Assistant  
nwhiton@emanuelmanchester.org  
Ext. 309

Anne Heinrich  
Church Secretary  
aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org  
Ext. 300

Eric Heinrich  
Youth Worker  
erich@emanuelmanchester.org

Kathy Hatch  
Property Supervisor  
Khatch4@gmail.com

James Hamilton  
Co-Treasurer  
jim.hamilton2@cox.net

Rosemary Johnson  
Co-Treasurer  
rcjohnson77@gmail.com

Eric Carlson  
Financial Secretary  
eric.carlson4191@gmail.com

Lynne Gustafson  
Parish Nurse  
cgustafson01@snet.net

John Helmke  
Congregation Council President  
johnhelmke@me.com

Donna Connolly  
Congregation Council Vice President  
ds3connolly@gmail.com

Berk Little  
Worship Support Specialist

Rachel Helmke  
Worship Support Specialist



FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT EMANUEL  
CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES 2017 - 2018



*Jurate Svedaite*  
*soprano*



*Spencer Hamlin*  
*tenor*



*Jan Zimmerman*  
*soprano*



an evening of art songs featuring works  
by Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, Mahler,  
Strauss and others,  
accompanied by Matthew Burry

**Saturday**  
**February 10**  
**at 7 pm**

\* Pre-concert talk by Dr. Robert Galloway  
at 6:15 p.m. in the Community Room

**Emanuel Lutheran Church**  
60 Church Street, Manchester, CT 06040

860-643-1193

**FREE ADMISSION**

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

