My Dear Friends of Emanuel,
A blessed New Year to you all! Are you one who makes New Year’s Resolutions? They are often well-intended, but fruitless attempts to be better at something like weight loss or exercise. The spring tag sales are great times to buy the nearly new exercise equipment folks got for Christmas and then forgot to use.

But let’s not be too skeptical. Most of us have, at some point in our lives, actually made decisions to change patterns of behavior in ways that have enriched our lives. If carefully planned, it is possible to re-think how we use our days in such a way as to benefit ourselves, our families, or our world. Let me make the most predictable suggestion a pastor can make. I’m inviting you to resolve to connect more fully with your congregation during 2016. I know, I know. I can see some of your eyes rolling already. Amazing—the pastor wants us to go to church more often!

I hope you know me enough by now not to think that I’m being so simplistic as that. Here is what I really mean. Your church is not the lovely building at the top of Myrtle Street. It is the community of faith that gathers there each Sunday. What I’m asking is that you set your mind on connecting to that community in some new and positive way. Attending worship on Sundays is fine, but that, by itself, will not truly connect you to the others who are there. To do that will require reaching out to get to know more of your fellow members. Emanuel has been changing over the past several years. Many of you do not know more than a few of your neighbors in the pews. This is the situation that I’d like you to resolve to help rectify. Not only will it be good for you, but the whole ministry of the congregation will be strengthened as we expand our connections within the body.

Let me be specific. As you enter the church, you may not know the names of the Greeters or Ushers. Please introduce yourselves. Even if you’ve seen their faces before, you can say “I’ve seen you here many times, but I’m not sure we’ve officially met. My name is…..” As you come in the room, look around your pew to see nearby people you do not yet know. Before you exit the building after worship, make sure to speak to them, again, introducing yourself. If you can stay for coffee hour, or come before the second service for coffee, you can again find and meet someone who is not very familiar to you yet. In a few short weeks, you will be on a first name basis with 8 or 10 families who were only faces before. This does not require extended conversations or personal revelations—just a “Hi, my name is….”

It’s free, and after a few tries, really not hard, but it will have a major impact on the whole experience of worship, fellowship and any future committee work you may choose to do. If Emanuel’s ministry is to develop...
Thanks to Members of Emanuel and Get Involved at MACC

From the Pastor

continued from page 2

In its fullest, it is important that many of you take me up on my suggestion to make these basic connections.

One other suggestion is in order here. As you reflect on your present patterns of attendance at Emanuel, please resolve to add in at least one new event this year. If you’ve never come to a coffee hour, please come. If you’ve skipped the picnic, please attend. If you’ve never been with us for a pot-luck, or a class, or a mid-week service, resolve to add something like these into your 2016 “Spiritual Growth Resolution.” I believe you’ll find that, over time, these new experiences will be a real extra in your life.

Oh yes, I almost forgot. Come to church more often, too.

Your Brother in Christ,
Scott Cady

MACC Charities
The pantry is looking for donations of paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, dish soap, hand soap), cereal, jelly, mayonnaise, and soups.

Donations can be dropped off at the Food Pantry (460 Main Street, Manchester) between the hours of 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM (Monday-Thursday) and between 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM (Friday).

Would you like to VOLUNTEER at MACC?
Open positions:
Soup Kitchen: 9 AM - 1:30 PM (Mon.-Sat.)
Thrift Shop: 10 AM – 1 PM (Mon. – Sat.)
Food Pantry: 9 AM - 11:30 AM (Monday) 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM (Tuesday)
Call 860-647-8003 for more information.

Check out these recently created videos:
MACC’s Food Rescue Program
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5V-QltZVYQ
MACC PSA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mjb1Kvslpl8

Many THANKS to each and everyone of you who contributed in some way to our Seasonal Sharing efforts this past December! Your time, talent and treasure was greatly appreciated!

Five MACC families were blessed with some wonderful Christmas gifts and groceries for a yummy meal! The generous response to Emanuel’s Giving Tree was very much appreciated this year! All of the tags were gone in less than two weeks and they all came back wrapped and ready to give.

Special thanks to Linda and Dave Jackson for coordinating all of the wish lists, the food and picking up the groceries for our volunteers to deliver! Thanks to the Bahan’s, Tracey’s, Maulucci’s and Kattman’s for delivering to the families.

Also, many THANKS to each and everyone of you who baked Christmas Cookies for Emanuel’s Cookie Caper in December!

Twenty-one homebound members were visited by our Head to Heart Youth and they brought your delicious cookies to them! Many thanks to the Head to Heart families for taking the time to deliver these and visit with our members!

Because of the overwhelming response of cookies, we were also able to package up a nice selection of cookies for each of the MACC families who received a Christmas basket. We were also able to arrange a lovely platter of cookies that was brought to the MACC Food Pantry for their luncheon and we gave some to our neighbors.

We’re looking forward to seeing you at worship this month!

Just a reminder...
Emanuel will have a single worship service on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM during the month of January. Please join us!

Scripture Readings for January

January 3rd
Second Sunday of Christmas
Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-9

January 10th
Baptism of Our Lord
Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17th
2nd Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

January 24th
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Nehemiah 6:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

January 31st
4th Sunday after Epiphany
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Our youth participated in a wonderful St. Lucia Processional on December 6th at both worship services. The children also hosted coffee hour that included lots of sweet treats including Swedish coffee bread and pepparkakor cookies.

Everyone did fabulous! We are so blessed to have the love and support of our congregation to continue this lovely tradition at Emanuel! Thank you to everyone who helped to make St. Lucia memorable!

The children continue to learn about Advent and preparing for the birth of Jesus with lots of fun crafts and bible lessons.

The Children will be working on our service project in January and our next Family Fun Event is scheduled for Sunday Jan. 10th from 12:30 PM—4:00 PM at Ron-A-Roll in Vernon. So grab a friend and come skate with us! The cost is $8.75 without skate rental and $12.75 with skate rental. Come skate with Emanuel’s friends and family! There is no admission fee if you aren’t planning to skate, so please come for the afternoon and enjoy fellowship with members and friends of Emanuel!

Collaborative Youth Ministry News
Middle School & High School Game Night
Youth Ministry volunteers from several area congregations (including Emanuel!) met recently to discuss combining our resources and energy to develop activities and programs for the benefit of our Middle and High School Students (Grades 7-12). Our kick-off event is below:

Event: Board Games Night – bring your favorites! Bring a friend!
Date: Sunday, January 10th
Time: 4:00 – 6:00 PM
Location: Concordia Lutheran, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester
Parking: Park and enter through the back of the building
RSVP: By Thursday, January 7th to Anne Heinrich at aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org (so we can plan for light refreshments).

Youth must be accompanied by at least one responsible adult from each congregation. We look forward to seeing you there and welcome any suggestions for future events and activities.

The Flower Chart for 2016 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.

The Church Council meets in the Community Room on the third Tuesday of every month. At the beginning of the meeting from 7:00-7:15 PM, the Council welcomes public participation from members of the Congregation. If there is something you would like to share, please feel free to come at the start of the meeting. Also, for your information, the Council meeting agenda is posted on the weekly update on the Friday before the meeting.
Church Events

The Church Office will be CLOSED on Friday, 1/1 and Monday, 1/18.

**SINGLE Service Sundays at Emanuel**—
10:00 AM
December 27—January 31

Healing Prayer Worship Service
Sunday, January 3rd at 10:00 AM

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

Women’s Breakfast
Wednesday, January 6th at 8:30 AM
The Gathering, Hartford Rd., Manchester

Family Fun Event: Rollerskating
Sunday, January 10th from 12:30 – 4:00 PM
Ron-A-Roll, Vernon

This is an open event to anyone in the congregation, so grab a friend and come skate with us! Cost is $8.75 without skate rental and $12.75 with skate rental. Admission is only for those who are skating. Spectators are free! Come skate and enjoy fellowship with Emanuel's friends and family!

Middle School & High School (Grades 7-12)
Board Games Night
Sunday, January 10th from 4:00 – 6:00 PM
Concordia Lutheran Church,
40 Pitkin Street, Manchester

Please read the details about this event on page 3.

Men’s Breakfast
Wednesday, January 13th at 8:30 AM
Friendly’s, Buckland Rd., Manchester

Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering
Monday, January 18th at 9:30 AM
in Luther Hall

Our next gathering will be held on Monday, January 18th at 9:30 AM in Luther Hall. All are most welcome!

Chamber Music Concert Series—Pandora Duo
Saturday, January 23rd at 7:00 PM
in the Sanctuary

Pandora Duo combines the forces of two exceptional musicians: Janet Arms, flute, and Christopher Ladd, guitar. Both highly regarded as solo performers, the duo met as faculty at the Hartt School of Music and decided to share their passion for chamber music. They have performed throughout New England and the Tri-State area. The Duo will present works by South American composers, including Astor Piazzola and Heiter Villa-Lobos. Free admission. Donations accepted.

Book Sale & Annual Congregation Meeting
Sunday, January 24th

9:15 a.m.—Book Sale
10:00 a.m.—Worship
11:00 a.m.—Book Sale & light lunch
11:30 a.m.—Annual Meeting

Shop the annual Book sale in the music room before our one worship service at 10:00 a.m. Following worship, come down to Luther Hall for another chance to purchase books, eat a light lunch and stay for the annual meeting.

**THERE WILL BE A CHILDREN’S SERMON ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 31ST AT OUR SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 AM.**

Happy New Year to one and all!
There is no January meeting of Ruth Circle. The next meeting is February 2nd at 12 noon.

Bring a brown bag lunch and come join us for a fun program! Dessert and coffee will be provided.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY—**
Worship Service on Sunday, January 17th.
**TIME & PLACE: TBD**

Effective January 1, 2016, Emanuel’s facilities and grounds will become “Smoke-free”. Smoking, including the use of electronic cigarettes, will not be permitted anywhere on the property or in the buildings. This restriction will also apply to private vehicles while in the parking lots of Emanuel. Those who wish to smoke should move to public sidewalks or streets. Thank you.
The Scrip Program

You can order gift cards using a paper order form or by setting up an account online (see directions below). The coordinator will place orders on a weekly basis. This means that gift cards should be delivered to you the following Sunday at church.

To sign up online for an account and place your orders electronically:

- Go to http://www.shopwithscrip.com/
- Click on the 'Register' button at the top of the page.
- Click 'Join a scrip program.' You will then need to enter Emanuel's unique enrollment code which is F43ED7CL4L595.
- Fill in all the required information and click 'Register.'

Questions can be directed to Marina on Sunday or via e-mail at marina.halmers@snet.net.

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<td>Healing Prayer</td>
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<td>12:45 PM Staff Meeting - Library</td>
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<td>8:30 AM Bible Study - Library</td>
<td>7:00 AM HGLC - LH</td>
<td>7:30 PM Christ Church music rehearsal - SA</td>
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<td>10:15 AM Sunday School</td>
<td>1:30 PM Christ Church</td>
<td>1:30 PM New Day Singers - SA</td>
<td>6:30 PM Special Council Meeting - CR</td>
<td>7:30 PM AA Smile - LH</td>
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<td>4:00 PM Middle School &amp; High School Stunt Game Night - Concordia Lutheran Church</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Property Comm. Mgr. - Library</td>
<td>7:00 PM AA Smile - LH</td>
<td>7:00 PM Council Meeting - CR</td>
<td>7:00 PM AM Men's Breakfast Group</td>
<td>7:00 AM Bible Study - Library</td>
<td>7:00 AM Financial Audit - CR</td>
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<td>Worship Assistants</td>
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<td>Greeters 10:00</td>
<td>Joe &amp; Teri Ferron</td>
<td>Mark &amp; Jill Anderson</td>
<td>Matt &amp; Barbara Heinrich</td>
<td>Meg DePrato Ray Purcell</td>
<td>Mel &amp; Sylvia Hellstrom</td>
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<td>Acolyte 10:00</td>
<td>Nick Cyr</td>
<td>Andrew Kattman</td>
<td>Ben Grant</td>
<td>Joe Griffin</td>
<td>Justin Guerrero</td>
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<td>Assisting Minister 10:00</td>
<td>Doug Johnson</td>
<td>Marina Halmers</td>
<td>Kim Boerner-Mercier</td>
<td>Marge Andersen</td>
<td>Eric Heinrich</td>
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<td>Lector 10:00</td>
<td>Lenore Henderson</td>
<td>Marge Andersen</td>
<td>David Jackson</td>
<td>Rod Andersen</td>
<td>Linda Jackson</td>
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<td>Ushers 10:00</td>
<td>Carol Adams Judy Anderson Jodi Eskin Dave Kent</td>
<td>Mark Anderson Kurt Buescher Nelson &amp; Elsa Robinson</td>
<td>Vyrjil Buus Len Johnson David Jackson Ray Purcell</td>
<td>Barbara Bahan Mel &amp; Sylvia Hellstrom Rich Marsh</td>
<td>Eric Haaga Ben Halmers Matt Heinrich Dean Soares</td>
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<td>Hospital Visitor</td>
<td>Meg DePrato Sylvia Hellstrom</td>
<td>Susan Plese</td>
<td>Len Johnson</td>
<td>Martha Eddy</td>
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January Birthdays

- Edith Persiani 1/9
- Clinton Bowman II 1/18
- Loren Davis 1/19
- Christa Lea 1/23
- Nancy Scott 1/24
- Eris Jenack 1/26
- Astrid Wierzbicki 1/28
- Dorothea Ritzen 1/31

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms
- Adrienne Sponzo
- Briggs Starybrat

Funerals
- Jean Delano
- Evelyn Kingman

Used Book Sale

We are kicking off the fundraising for the National Youth Gathering in 2018 by having our annual used book sale. The Gathering will be held in Houston, Texas. We’re planning to be well represented. Our sale will include used hard and soft cover books, both fiction and nonfiction. It will be held on two Sundays, January 24th & 31st. The first Sunday is the date of the annual meeting with one church service. So, come prepared to shop starting at 9:15 AM that day.

Please bring your good condition used books to the church office no later than January 17th. Then, come to the sale, prepared to purchase books. The prices will be excellent, and, as usual, we’ll have some wonderful selections for your reading pleasure. Save the dates—January 24th & 31st. Let’s all help the youth on their way to Texas!

Coffee Hour Hosts

Coffee Hour is held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. between worship services. Hosting coffee hour is easy! The coffee is usually measured out and sometimes the first pot is even brewed! All you need to do is bring treats for the table, half & half for the coffee and juice for the children.

A sign up sheet is posted in the office hallway, or you can call the church office at 860-643-1193, to reserve a date. Everyone enjoys this time of fellowship!

The Gospel Reading and Sermon are recorded each week during worship and uploaded to Emanuel’s website. If you are interested in listening to a sermon for a second time, or if you missed worship one week, you can still access the sermons.

Visit www.emanuelmanchester.org, Click on the “Experience Emanuel” tab on the upper left side, and then click on “Sermons”.

If you, or someone you know, could use the care of a Stephen Minister, please contact Stephen Leader, Amy Cady at 860-672-0143 or Pastor Scott Cady at 860-643-1193.
SAVE THE DATE . . .

Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday, January 24, 2016
11:30 a.m.
in Luther Hall